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Clover
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If you don't want us
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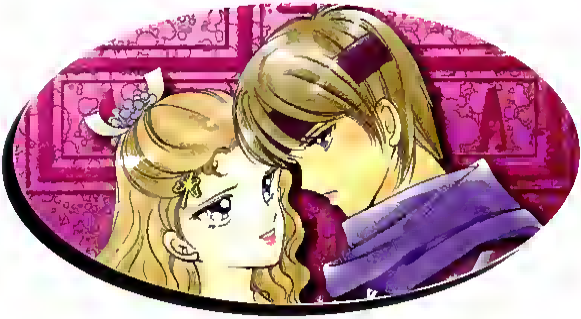

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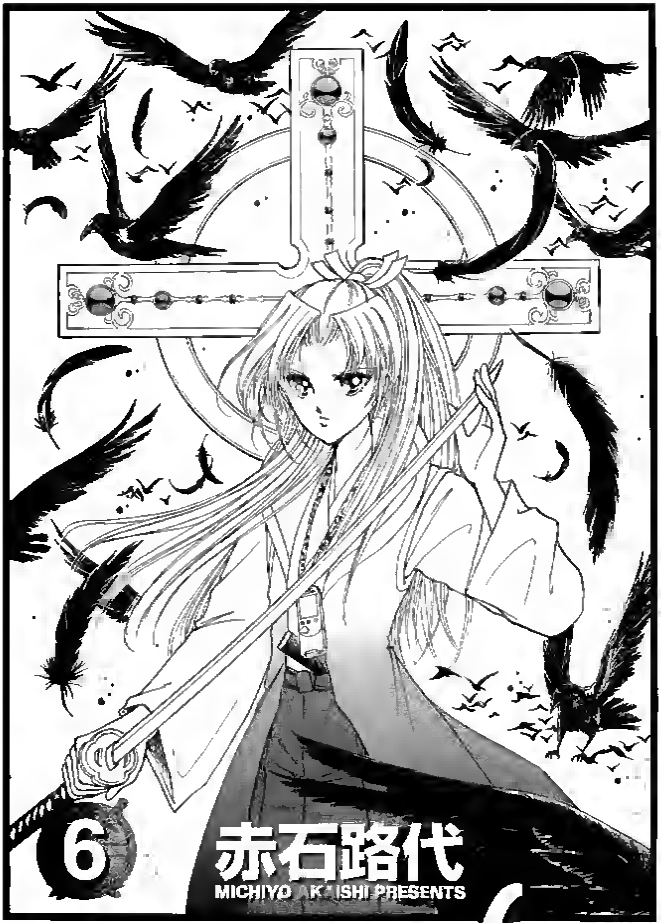

AMAKUSA 1637

アマクサ

MICHIYO AKAISHI PRESENTS

Shimabara and Amakusa
Ginji
A friend of the deceased Shirou who is an expert gunman
Kichou (Kiku)
The beloved concubine of Matsukura Katsue, Lord of Shimabara. She was in Nagasaki when she met Eiji and is in love with him
Miyamoto Masaki (Musashi)
He is Natsuki's lover who has at one time lost his memory and becomes the strategist of Kokura Clan. However he is Natsuki's rival swordman in the 20th century
Hayumi Natsuki (Amakusa Shirou)
She is a genius swordwoman born in a family that practises the art of the Japanese sword. She always takes the lead and is helpful
Yatsuka Naozumi
He becomes the chamberlain of Tomioka Castle who used to hunt down Christians but he changes his stance to side the insurgents after he met Natsuki and the others again
Horie Eiji
He is knowledgeable about machinery and is making various inventions. He and Kichou are lovers
Six students from Saint Francisco Academy are time-slipped to various moments of the era when they were shipwrecked during their study trip. Their mobile phones can be connected when the sky turns scarlet
Kokura
Otsu
She helped Miyamoto who had lost his memory and was found at the beach. This young girl becomes his fiancee
Akishima Seika
She is saved by a Holland vessel. Not only is she proficient in foreign languages, she is a good singer as well
Kasugano Eri
She is the national top student of Japan who does not forget anything that she has read
Chief retainer, Kuriyama Taizen
He is the loyal subject of the Kuroda House who is termed about Tadayuki
Head of the clan, Kuroda Tadayuki
He is interested in Natsuki (Shirou) and is an ambitious man
Fukuoka
Yagyu Jubee
He receives his order from Tokugawa Iemitsu to conduct investigation from Edo to Amakusa and Shimabara
Matsudaira Tadanao
He is the cousin of Tokugawa Iemitsu and is being locked away with unfounded crime in Bungo (Oita) due to his Christian faith. He is helping Natsuki and her friends
AMAKUSA1637人物紹介

5 A summary of the story to date:

Natsuki and her fellow members of the Student Council were on a study trip when they were shipwrecked. The students were all transported to the periphery of Amakusa before the riot takes place. Natsuki performs various miracles in that era, living as "Amakusa Shirou" and gains support from the Christians. In order to reduce the casualties of the insurgency, Natsuki and her friends travel to visit the powerful lords of the Kumamoto Clan, Saga Clan, and Fukuoka Clan in Kyushu. Their journey continues...

AMAKUSA 1637
アマクサ
MASAYO AKABOSHI PRESENTS
Chapter 23

who is building such a huge vessel.
The Head of Fukuoka Clan of Chikuzen
Kuroda Tadayuki was...
FUKUOKA
laughing when he heard about the insurgency as though it was amusing.
What is this man planning at the far end of Japan?

TADAYUKI GETS HIS NAME, "TADA" FROM "HIDETADA" WHICH IS THE NAME OF THE SECOND GENERATION SHOGUN.
SINCE HE'S THE ELDEST SON, IT'S A NORM WITHOUT DISPUTE THAT HE IS THE HEIR
WELL,
KURODA TADAYUKI'S MOTHER IS THE ADOPTED DAUGHTER OF IEYASU. HENCE, SHE'S A PRINCESS FROM A PRESTIGIOUS FAMILY
NONETHELESS EVERY TIME THAT HAPPENED, THEIR CHIEF RETAINER, KURIYAMA TAIZEN-SAMA WOULD PROTECT TADAYUKI.
BUT IT SEEMS THAT HIS FATHER, KURODA NAGAMASA, DIDN'T LIKE HIM
He's perhaps a rather pitiful man.
IT ALSO APPEARS THAT HE HAD TRIED TO DISINHERIT TADAYUKI COUNTLESS TIMES

NOTE: LUZON IS THE LARGEST ISLAND IN THE PHILIPPINES.
WHERE DO YOU INTEND TO GO IN THAT VESSEL? LUZON*? HOLLAND? OR IS IT PORTUGAL?
NOWHERE IN PARTICULAR.
SO YOU'RE BUILDING A VESSEL WITHOUT A SAILING SCHEDULE AND DOING IT SECRETLY WITHOUT THE SHOGUN'S KNOWLEDGE
SUCH A WASTE.
flicks
A SAILING...SCHEDULE...?
Anyway, shall I try to draw his attention with the talk of vessels?

WELL,
MY FATHER HAD TOLD ME TO BE A MERCHANT, AND I CAN EVEN GO TO HOLLAND IN THAT...
THAT SEEMS MORE FUN THAN BEING THE HEAD OF A CLAN
SO IT'S THE FUKUOKA CLAN THAT YOU WANT TO GET AWAY FROM?
IT'S THE AGE OF SAIL NOW.
...
THIS IS THE TIME TO RIDE ON BIG SAILING SHIPS AND EXPLORE NEW LANDS.

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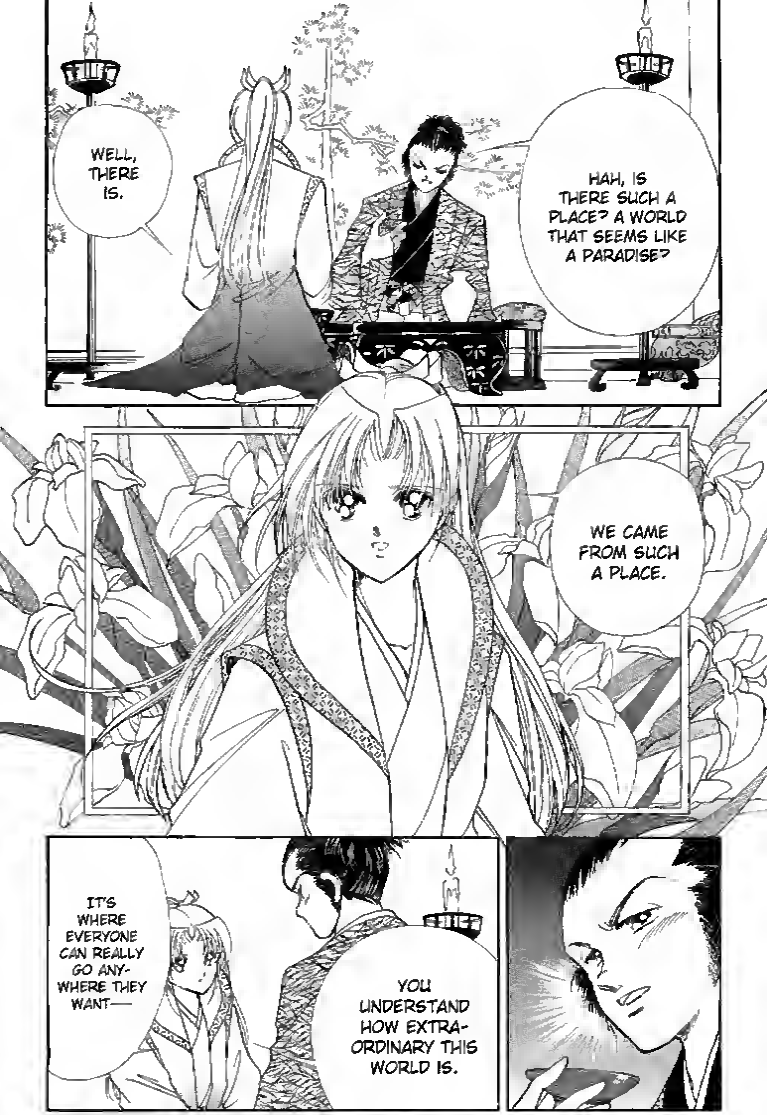
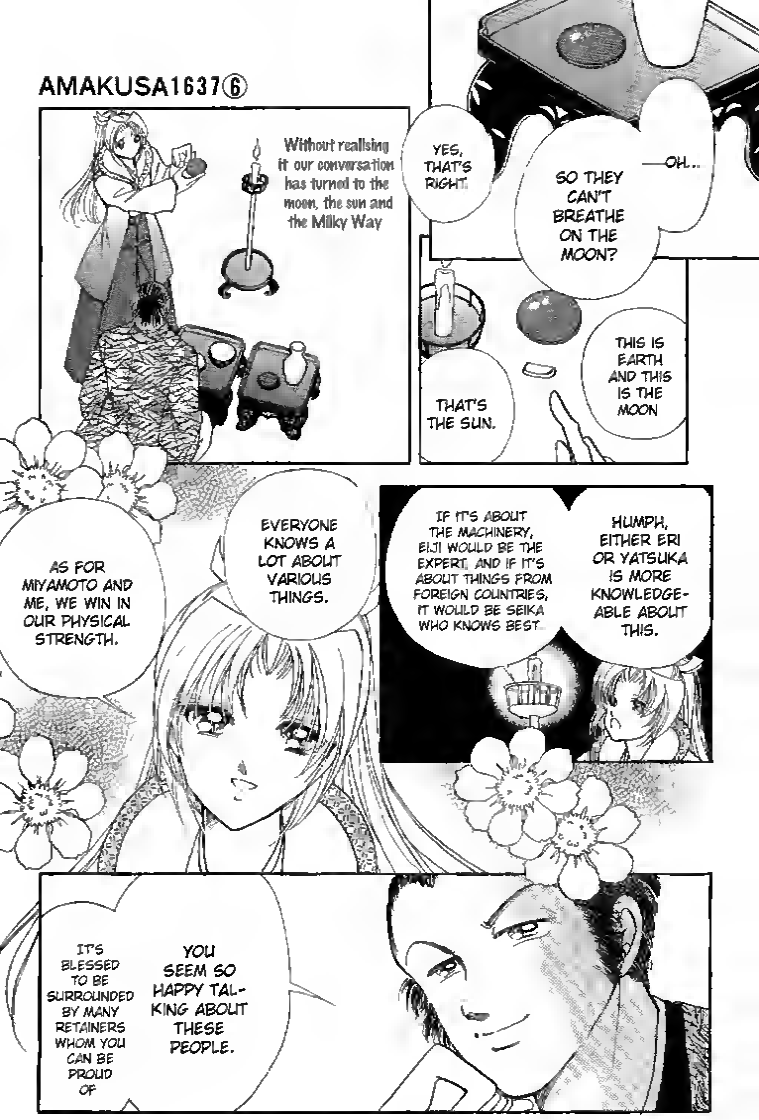
THOSE WHO RIDE ON THE WAVES WILL CHANGE THE WORLD.
IF TIMES HAD BEEN DIFFERENT— IF JAPAN HAD NOT IMPLEMENTED THE NATIONAL ISOLATION POLICY...
YOU COULD HAVE CHANGED THE WORLD.
DON'T SAY IT AS THOUGH YOU HAD WITNESSED IT YOURSELF.
AH... THESE ARE ONLY HISTORICAL FACTS.
THE WORLD SHOULD BE A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE HAS FREEDOM TO GO ANYWHERE
IT SHOULD BE WHERE ONE HAS THE FREEDOM TO LOVE ANYONE
AND WHERE ALL HAVE THE FREEDOM TO EMBRACE ANY RELIGIOUS FAITH.


WELL, THERE IS.
HAH, IS THERE SUCH A PLACE? A WORLD THAT SEEMS LIKE A PARADISE?
WE CAME FROM SUCH A PLACE.
IT'S WHERE EVERYONE CAN REALLY GO ANY-WHERE THEY WANT—
YOU UNDERSTAND HOW EXTRA-ORDINARY THIS WORLD IS.

ACTUAL-LY——
YOU DON'T SEE YOURSELF AS SOMEONE WHO IS BEING DOMINATED BY TOKUGAWA——
YOU AREN'T WRONG,
AND THE WORLD CAN REALLY BE CHANGED
THAT WAS CLOSE! THAT WAS CLOSE!
AS EXPECTED OF 'GOD'S MESSEN-GER'!

SHALL WE TALK ABOUT MY WORLD INSTEAD?
Just when I thought he's opening up.
IT SEEMS THAT YOUR WORDS CAN DRAW PEOPLE IN, AND I WAS ABOUT TO BE DECEIVED——
YOUR WORLD...?
PEOPLE JOURNEY TO THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN IN MY WORLD, CARRYING OXYGEN WITH THEM
THEY CAN EVEN GO UNDER THE SEA IN VEHICLES MADE WITH METAL.
AND EVEN TRAVEL TO THERE.
SFX GLIDES

WE FLY THROUGH THE SKY AND ARE FREE TO GO EVERY-WHERE.
WE CAN REALLY GO ANYWHERE
WE EVEN TOOK A TRIP THERE
EVEN... THE MOON?
HE'S TALKING WITH GOD'S MESSENGER ALL NIGHT
ARE YOU SAYING THAT DONO HAS YET TO RETURN—?
ANYWAY, HE'S STAYING AWAY FROM KURAHASHI-DONO.
THAT'S A GOOD THING.
SO HE'S NOT GOING TO KURAHASHI-DO NO'S PLACE TONIGHT?
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME HE DID THIS?


Without realising it our conversation has turned to the moon, the sun and the Milky Way
YES, THAT'S RIGHT!
—OH...
SO THEY CAN'T BREATHE ON THE MOON?
THIS IS EARTH AND THIS IS THE MOON
THAT'S THE SUN.
AS FOR MIYAMOTO AND ME, WE WIN IN OUR PHYSICAL STRENGTH.
EVERYONE KNOWS A LOT ABOUT VARIOUS THINGS.
IF IT'S ABOUT THE MACHINERY, EIJI WOULD BE THE EXPERT, AND IF IT'S ABOUT THINGS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES, IT WOULD BE SEIKA WHO KNOWS BEST.
HUMPH, EITHER ERI OR YATSUKA IS MORE KNOWLEDGE-ABLE ABOUT THIS.
IT'S BLESSED TO BE SURROUNDED BY MANY RETAINERS WHOM YOU CAN BE PROUD OF
YOU SEEM SO HAPPY TALKING ABOUT THESE PEOPLE.

THAT MAN HAS WORKED HARD SINCE YOUR FATHER'S TIME, HASN'T HE?
WHAT ABOUT YOU? DON'T YOU HAVE KURIYAMA-SAMA WHOM YOU CAN BE PROUD OF?
THEY AREN'T MY RETAINERS, BUT FRIENDS WHOM I'M PROUD OF
KURI YAMA...?
THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT TRUE!
This man doesn't trust Kuriyama-sama, does he?
WHAT KURI-YAMA NEEDS IS A 'CLAN HEAD' WHOM HE WOULD PROTECT, EVEN IF IT WASN'T ME.
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KURIYAMA-SAMA WILL RISK HIS LIFE FOR YOU.
HE'S NOT DOING IT FOR 'ANYONE'—— BUT 'YOU'!
IS THIS ALSO A PROPHE-CY?
AH . . UM, WELL...
Of course, it's not as if everything will happen according to history
OH WELL . . SO KURIYAMA IS DOING IT FOR ME——?
YOUR TALES ARE TOO INTERES-TING.

GFX RUSTLES
DONO DIDN'T RETURN TO MY SIDE LAST NIGHT.
He was with that fellow the whole night.
DONO REALLY LIKES BEAUTIFUL THINGS.

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SLIDES

AH... SHH.

HE'S BY FAR MORE OUTSTANDING THAN KU-RAHASHI-DONO

BUT THAT GOD'S MESSENGER DEFENDED THAT KOSHIMOTO* AND HE SEEMS LIKE A KIND MAN

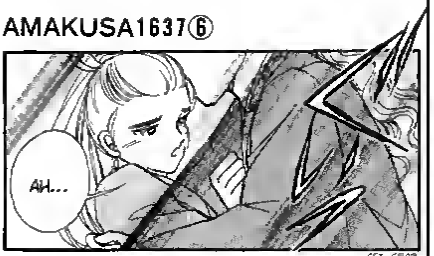
glower

I'm going to kill that fellow——

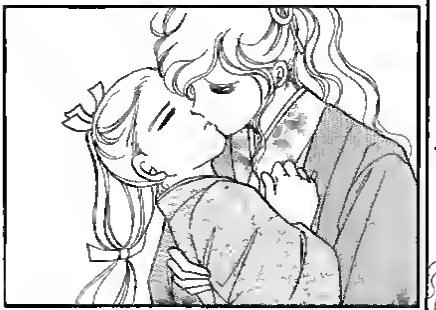
You have infuria-ted me, Kurahashi Judayu

*KOSHIMOTO IS A FEMALE WHO WAITS UPON PEOPLE OF HIGH SOCIAL STATUS TO DO ALL KINDS OF CHORES.

AH
KURAHASHI-SAMA!
PUT THIS INTO GOD'S MESSENGER'S BREAKFAST
THIS.. THIS IS ..

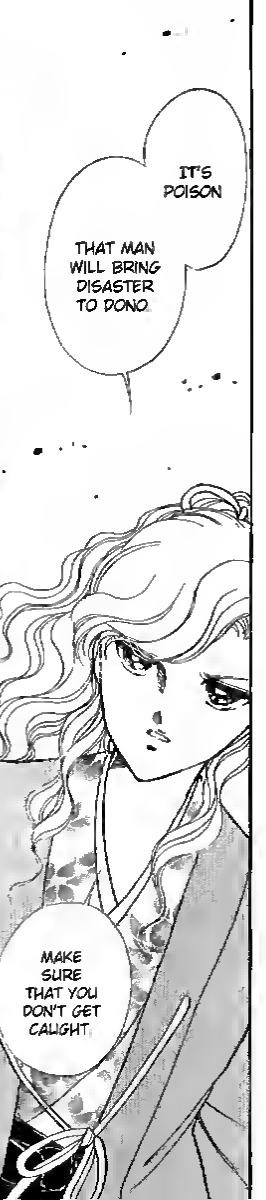


SFX: GRAB



SFX: SCOOTS

SFX: WIPES



AH... THANK YOU.
THIS LOOKS GOOD—
God's messenger, I'd be laughing at you when you're miserably in pain.
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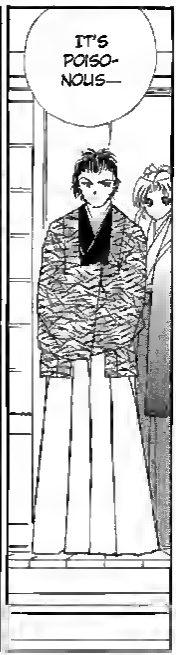
I'M SORRY.... I FEEL THAT SOMETHING BAD WILL HAPPEN TO ME IF I EAT THIS
WHAT'S WRONG?
SFX: 6 TIMES
SFX: TAKES
DONO!

DONO!
DONO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SFX: SPLASH
LOOK!

DONO!

SFX: KICKS

JUST AS YOU HAD SAID, SHIROU-DONO...
IF YOU HAD EATEN THAT, YOU'D BE DEAD.


IT'S POISO-NOUS—

SFX: BAM
WHO IS IT?
WHO IS THE ONE THAT POI-SONED THE FOOD?
DO...
DONO!
HUH...
WHO DO YOU THINK IS THE MASTER OF THIS CASTLE?!
HOW DARE YOU POISON MY GUEST WITH-OUT MY ORDER!

IT'S TOO BAD FOR THE CULPRIT THAT I SENSED A DEADLY AURA, SO I DIDN'T EAT ANY OF THAT
THERE-FORE I'M FINE
NATSUKI, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
DONO!
THAT'S GOOD...
IS IT YOU?!
WHO POISONED THE FOOD?
OR YOU?!

CALM DOWN.
HUH... NO, IT'S NOT US, DONO!
OR IS IT YOU?!
IT'S FUTILE FOR THE ONE WHO WANTS TO KILL ME.
ALRIGHT?
IT'S ALRIGHT. AFTER ALL, I'M NOT DEAD.
IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME EVEN IF YOU CAN'T FIND THE CULPRIT
SHIROU?
RELIEVES
UH...

A deadly aura...?
How did he know that the food was poisonous?
It's futile for the one who wants to kill him—?
Is he really God's messenger—
What am I thinking?! There's no such man.
THAT'S RIGHT...
SUCH A MAN CAN'T EXIST...

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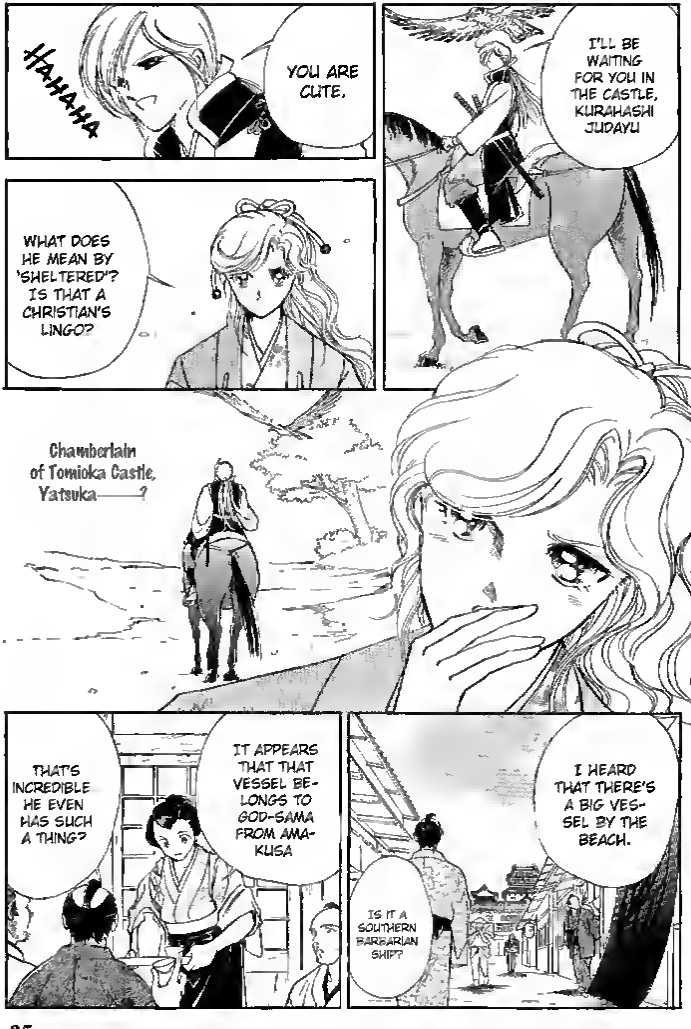
What...
What's with
this vessel?!
It's bigger
than Dono's
—?!

IS THIS THE TERRITORY OF THE FUKUOKA CLAN IN CHIKUZEN?
SCREECH
YES, YES IT IS.
I'M YATSUKA NAOZUMI, THE CHAMBERLAIN OF TOMIOKA CASTLE
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH MY CLAN?
WHERE IS THAT VESSEL FROM?
ARE YOU ALSO THE COMRADE OF GOD'S MESSENGER?!
MASUDA SHIROU FROM AMAKUSA SHOULD BE HERE, RIGHT?

HUH? SO IT APPEARS THAT SHIROU IS NOT WELCOMED HERE.
HUMPH.
ARE YOU NOT THAT FAMOUS KURAHASHI JUDAYU OF THE FUKUOKA CLAN?
I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT GOD'S MESSENGER!
SO WHAT IF I AM..
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE WELL-KNOWN AS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ONE IN THIS TERRITORY.

HUMPH! I HAVE NO BUSINESS WITH A CHAMBERLAIN FROM THE RURAL AREA OF AMAKUSA
WHAT ARE YOU—?
HIGH... AUDACIOUS CREATURE!
SFX: PAM
OHH....

WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I SEE. DONO DOTES ON YOU, SO YOU'RE VERY PROUD AND SHELTERED.
FU...
SHALL WE RIDE TOGETHER? COME.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THAT'S MY HORSE!
TURNS


HAHAHA
YOU ARE CUTE.
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU IN THE CASTLE, KURAHASHI JUDAYU
WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY 'SHELTERED'? IS THAT A CHRISTIAN'S LINGO?
Chamberlain of Tomioka Castle, Yatsuka——?
THAT'S INCREDIBLE HE EVEN HAS SUCH A THING?
IT APPEARS THAT THAT VESSEL BELONGS TO GOD-SAMA FROM AMAKUSA
I HEARD THAT THERE'S A BIG VESSEL BY THE BEACH.
IS IT A SOUTHERN BARBARIAN SHIP?

IT'S AHEAD AT THE BEACH IN THE WEST
WHERE IS THIS SHORE THAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT?
HEY.
THE PROHIBITED VESSEL ..
BELONGING TO...GOD'S MESSEN-GER?
LONG TIME NO SEE, NATSUKI.
YATSUKA.
FUKUOKA CASTLE

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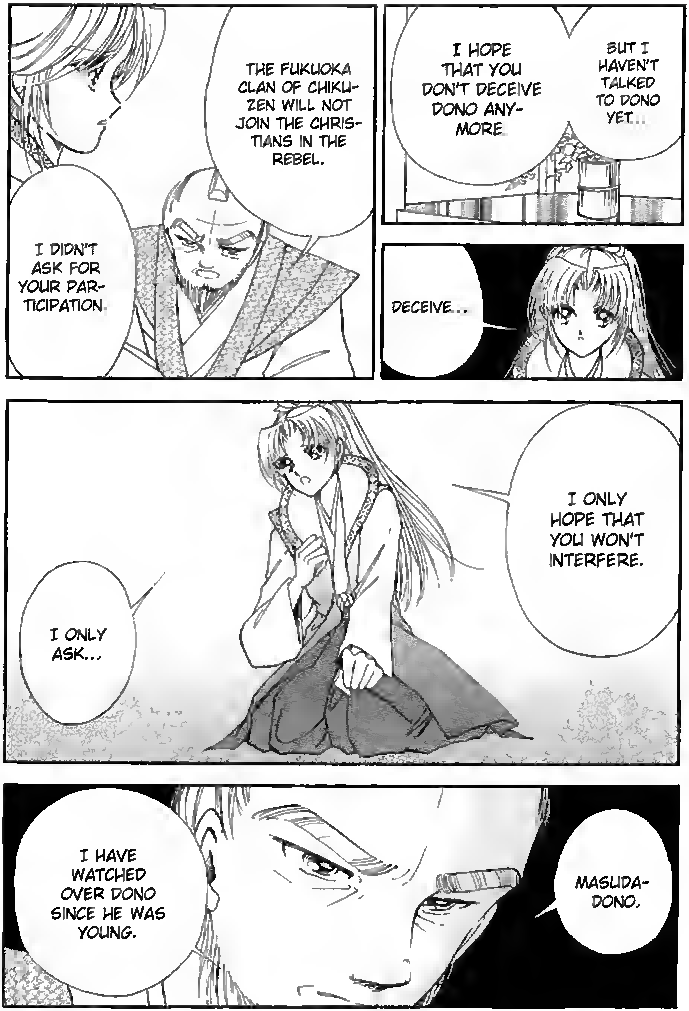
I AM THE CHAMBERLAIN OF TOMIOKA CASTLE, YATSUKA NAOZUMI
THIS IS YATSUKA, KURODA TADAYUKI-SAMA.
YES, KIND OF. I'M SNEAKILY LETTING IT OUT FROM THE WAREHOUSE.
IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT OVER THERE?
KURODA TADAYUKI-SAMA, I HEARD THAT YOU ARE BUILDING A HUGE VESSEL
IS IT THAT RUMOURED BIG VESSEL THAT SHIROU IS TALKING ABOUT...?
I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT MINE?
IT'S JUST ANCHORED AT THE SHORE.

BY THE WAY, KURAHASHI-SAMA IS CUTE.
WELL THEN, LET'S GO.
IT MAY CAUSE A COMMOTION IF WE DON'T HURRY.
WHAT?
HE IS STRONG-WILLED AND DOESN'T SUCK UP TO OTHERS. I LIKE THAT ABOUT HIM
RIGHT NOW?
THOSE TWO...ARE KIND OF SCARY.
HAHAHA
THAT'S MY MAN!
PERHAPS WE EVEN SHARE SIMILAR HOBBIES, DONO OF KURODA.
UH...

Kuroda may get along with Yatsuka.
But it's surprisingly true.
PLEASE LEAVE THE CASTLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
PLEASE, I BEG YOU.
SURE.
MASUDA-DONO, I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU
Kuriyama -sama.


THE FUKUOKA CLAN OF CHIKUZEN WILL NOT JOIN THE CHRISTIANS IN THE REBEL.
I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.
I HOPE THAT YOU DON'T DECEIVE DONO ANYMORE.
BUT I HAVEN'T TALKED TO DONO YET...
DECEIVE...
I ONLY HOPE THAT YOU WON'T INTERFERE.
I ONLY ASK...
I HAVE WATCHED OVER DONO SINCE HE WAS YOUNG.
MASUDA-DONO.

KURIYAMA -SAMA...
I KNOW WHAT DONO REALLY HOPES FOR,
AND WHAT DREAMS HE ACTUALLY HAS.
THIS IS WHY I PLEA THAT YOU LEAVE THE KURODA CLAN IMMEDIATELY.
DO YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND HIM?
THAT MAN IS OF A CALIBRE HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE PERSON AND IS MOST LIKELY NOT SATISFIED WITH THE COMMON KNOWLEDGE HERE.

DON'T SAY IT!
WHAT THAT MAN REALLY FEELS ABOUT BEING DOMINATED BY TOKUGAWA IS——
IF THE PEOPLE OF KURODA WHICH COMMANDS 520,000 GOKU ARE INVOLVED, THERE WILL BE MANY DEATHS.
!
DONO'S WISH WILL DEFINITELY NOT COME TRUE IN THIS WORLD.
IF YOUR WORDS STIR HIM——
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Kuriyama Taizen——
Kuroda Tadayuki's Chief retainer,
who is risking his own life to remonstrate against his lord.
I WILL PROTECT DONO AND THE KURODA CLAN EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE.
PLEASE—
LEAVE IMMEDIATE-LY.
It won't work.
Kuroda Clan will revolve around the Shogun armies.
As long as this man is here,

A lot of people in this era had been given names with the word "Tada", which derived from the name of Hidetada who was the second generation Shogun

Among these men, there was one in the Fukuoka Clan, Kuroda Tadayuki who seemed like an unusual man. He built vessels, was told by his father to become a merchant, was a playboy who was fond of men... but was that how he really was? Perhaps he was a man dissatisfied with Japan and hence became such a character. Iemitsu appeared to be rather scared of Kuroda. Well, if Kuroda could show more of his unpredictability, I would really be thrilled

●好きな歴史上の人物

天草四郎は、ジャンヌ・ダルク、源義経とならんで中学生のころから、好きでしたね（源義経は前に、前世が義経っつー話描きました♥）あと土方さんは、ほんとにかっこいいですね（写真が）。あれで冷酷なんだからたまりませんね（おいおい）。でも、みんな悲しい死に方していますね…。

赤石路代

赤石路代の公式ホームページ

●カバーイラストレーション／赤石路代
●カバーデザイン／小松美紀子＋ベイブリッジ・スタジオ

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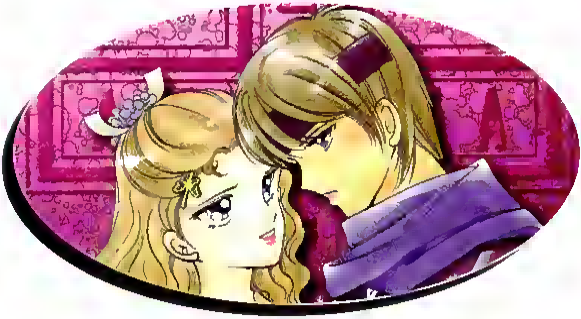

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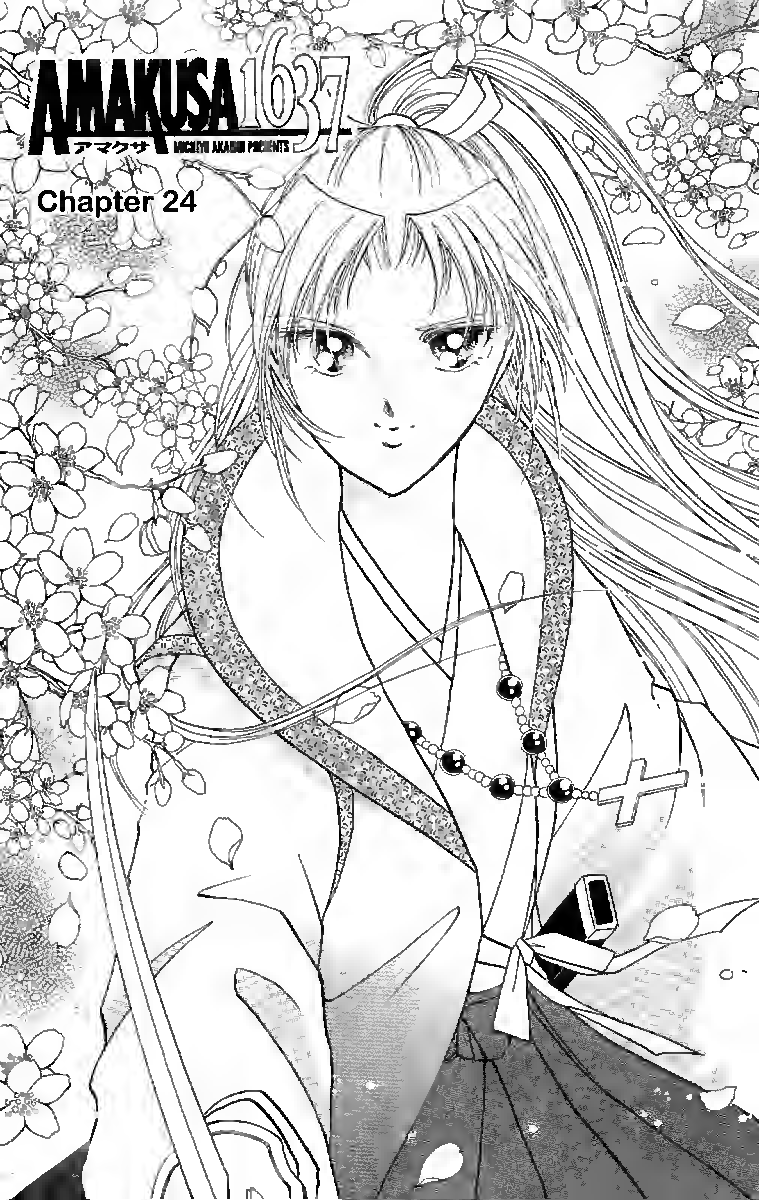
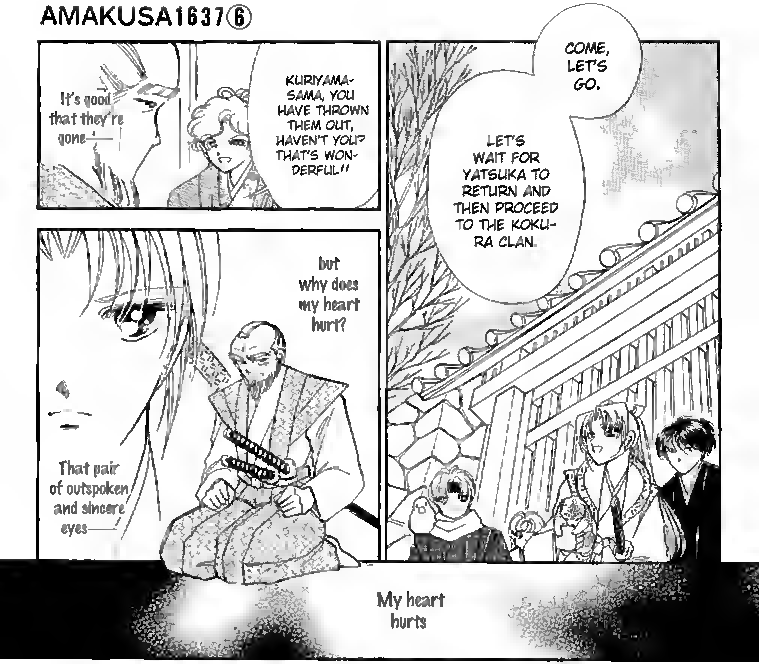

AMAKUSA 1637
アマクサ
MICHIYO AKASHI PRESENTS
Chapter 24

I, KURIYAMA, AM PREPARED TO ANSWER FOR MY ACTIONS WITH MY LIFE
SINCE I SENT AWAY THE GUESTS WHOM DONO INVITED...
CHIEF RETAINER OF THE KURODA CLAN, KURIYAMA TAIZEN.
He should have seen that Kuroda Tadayuki is an ambitious man who is dissatisfied under the Shogun governance system
He said that he will risk his life to drive us away from the Kuroda Clan
Hence, he's protecting Dono and the people who are living in the clan
REBELLION...

IF THAT HAPPENS, YOU'LL ALSO TRY TO STOP HIM FROM RISKING YOUR LIFE, WON'T YOU?
ARE YOU THINKING THAT——THE DONO OF KURODA MAY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE INSURGENCY AND PLAN A REVOLUTION AGAINST THE SHOGUN?
Tadayuki did seem rather concerned about the insurgency
IT'S NOT THAT I CAN'T OBLIGE WITH WHAT YOU HAD ASKED.
*T/N: HARA CASTLE IS IN MINAMISHIMABARA WHICH IS A CITY IN THE NAGASAKI PREFECTURE THAT OCCUPIES THE SOUTHERN TIP OF THE SHIMABARA PENINSULA.
——HE WILL THEN DECIDE TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE ATTACK ON HARA CASTLE* WHERE OUR REVOLUTION ARMIES ARE, CUTTING THROUGH OUR DEFENCE INTO OUR FORTRESS.
AFTER THAT..
DONO WILL BE MOVED BY YOUR LOYALTY
IS THIS.. A PROPHECY..?
DO-.. DONO WILL DO THAT—?

I thought that I could change this part of history—
but... this man has stopped me.
THERE IS A POSSIBILITY FOR THAT TO HAPPEN.
I don't dislike this man.
KURIYAMA-SAMA, PLEASE DO VALUE YOUR LIFE MORE.
Even though he's throwing us out for some reason...
LET'S GO, MIYAMOTO.
WE CAN'T STAY HERE SINCE A LIFE IS PUT ON THE LINE IN ORDER TO DRIVE US OUT.
PLEASE TAKE CARE.
MASUDA-SAMA TOO.


It's good that they're gone——
KURIYAMA-SAMA, YOU HAVE THROWN THEM OUT, HAVEN'T YOU? THAT'S WONDERFUL!!
COME, LET'S GO.
LET'S WAIT FOR YATSUKA TO RETURN AND THEN PROCEED TO THE KOKURA CLAN.
but why does my heart hurt?
That pair of outspoken and sincere eyes——
My heart hurts

AH, THE MOBILE HAS CONNECTED.
HEY—— WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YATSUKA? ARE YOU OUT AT SEA AGAIN?

THE WIND HAS BECOME STRONGER AND STRONGER
WELL, I'M AFRAID WE'RE RATHER FAR FROM THE COAST, AND IT SEEMS THAT A TYPHOON'S APPROACHING.
DID YOU FIGHT WITH DONO?
DID YOU GO OUT FAR? WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU AT THE BEACH ALL THIS TIME.
SO WE WON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENS AT SEA FAR AWAY FROM HERE
A TYPHOON? AH, I SEE. THERE'S NO WEATHER FORECAST HERE.
DO YOU WANT TO TALK TO NA—SHIROU?
THIS IS A MOBILE PHONE.
OHH.
HEY, WHAT'S THAT? WHO HAVE YOU BEEN TALKING TO?

SHI... SHIROU? WHERE ARE YOU?
SHIROU'S AT THE BEACH. THIS MACHINE ALLOWS US TO COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE DISTANT FROM US.
IS THAT REALLY YOU, SHI... SHIROU?
Ah, Kuroda-dono?
YES, I AM.
Alright, can you pass a message to those at the sea side?
We're going to the Kokura Clan soon. Please hurry and return.
HO, IT'S REALLY YOU. ARE YOU AT THE BEACH?
THE FISHERMEN HAD SAID BEFORE THAT A HURRICANE NEAR TATSUMI ISLAND WILL AT THE SAME TIME CAUSE A TSUNAMI TO HIT THE WEST COAST!
I'M RIGHT NOW NEAR TATSUMI ISLAND, SO PERHAPS A TSUNAMI IS APPROACHING THE WEST COAST.

TSUNAMI WARNING—?
LAST TIME, HUGE WAVES SWEPT AWAY THE WEST COAST AND DOZENS OF PEOPLE DIED.
COULD YOU PLEASE INFORM THE VILLAGERS TO BE CAREFUL?
GOT IT. IT'S THE WEST COAST.
WHAT HAPPENED?
CUT'S OFF
KURODA TADAYUKI SAID THAT THERE MAY BE A TSUNAMI APPROACHING. WE HAVE TO WARN THE PEOPLE AT THE WEST COAST IMMEDIATELY!

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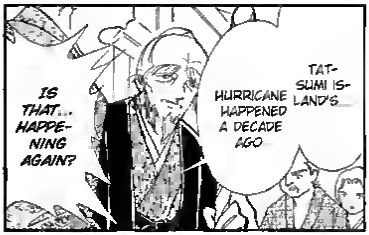
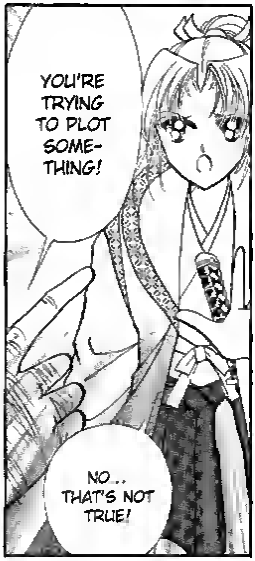
—THERE WAS A BEAUTIFUL LADY AT THAT VILLAGE,
BUT SHE DIED AT THAT TSUNAMI.
NO, IT'S NOT THAT
HMM, YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR PEOPLE. AREN'T YOU QUITE A GOOD LORD
NO, NOT REALLY.
DID YOU LIKE HER?
BUT THAT'S AN INCREDIBLE THING.
HAHA!
JUST AS I SUSPECT, YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH HER, WEREN'T YOU?
DON'T LAUGH!
I ONLY THOUGHT THAT IT WAS A PITY THAT SHE DIED.

WHERE—
DID YOU PEOPLE REALLY COME FROM?
A TSUNAMI MAY BE APPROACHING. RUN TO HIGHER GROUND!
WHO... ARE YOU?
YOU AREN'T THE MESSENGERS FROM THE GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVE AND WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE.
THIS IS THE ORDER OF KURODA TADAYUKI-SAMA! HURRY UP! RUN!
ARE YOU THE ELDER OF THE VILLAGE?


IS THAT... HAPPENING AGAIN?
TATSUMI ISLAND'S HURRICANE HAPPENED A DECADE AGO

KURODA TADAYUKI-SAMA SAID THAT THERE SEEMS TO BE A HURRICANE AT TATSUMI ISLAND, AND HE'S SAYING THAT WHEN THE SAME THING HAPPENED IN THE PAST, A TSUNAMI HIT THE WEST COAST.

THIS IS TERRIBLE LET'S FLEE.
THAT KILLED DOZENS OF PEOPLE.


YOU'RE TRYING TO PLOT SOMETHING!
NO... THAT'S NOT TRUE!

NOW THAT YOU MENTIONED IT, THAT'S...
THOSE AT THE SOUTH COAST SAID THAT DONO-SAMA HAS TAKEN A HUGE VESSEL OUT TO THE SEA THIS MORNING, BUT HAS YET TO RETURN

WAIT. IS IT ALRIGHT TO BELIEVE THE WORDS OF THESE STRANGERS?
MOREOVER, DONO-SAMA IS AT SEA, SO HOW DO THEY KNOW WHAT HE SAID?

AH! THAT'S A CRUCIFIX!
THAT'S WHY..
WE CAN TALK TO THOSE WHO ARE FAR AWAY FROM US WITH THIS
AH—THE RADIO SIGNAL HAS WEAKENED AND WE AREN'T CONNECTED ANYMORE.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO TALK ABOUT THAT!
CHR.. CHRIS-TIANS!
THESE PEOPLE ARE CHRIS-TIANS!
DON'T LIE!
THESE FELLOWS ARE CON-SPIRING SOME-THING.

STOP, MIYA-MOTO.
I WON'T LET YOU TOUCH THIS PERSON.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT. I CAME FROM AMAKUSA, AND I'M CALLED MASUDA SHIROU. BUT I ONLY ASKED TO RELATE A MESSAGE FROM THE DONO OF KURODA.
THERE IS A HURRICANE AT TATSUMI ISLAND NOW
BUT I'M NOT LYING.
THE WIND WAS ODDLY MOIST.
10 YEARS AGO ON THAT DAY....

I DARE-SAY TODAY RESEMBLES THAT DAY...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...MY CAT HASN'T BEEN AROUND SINCE MORNING
FOR SOME REASON, WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY CATS IN THE VILLAGE SINCE THIS MORNING, AND THE BIRDS HAVE BEEN RAUCOUS
MINE TOO...
IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, HE CREATED MIRACLES IN KUMAMOTO AND USA..
I HEARD SOME-THING ABOUT HIM
SHI-ROU OF AMAKU-SA
LET'S TAKE IT THAT THEY LIED TO US AND STAY AT THE TEMPLE ON THE MOUNTAIN TILL MORNING, SHALL WE?
ALRIGHT THEN...IF IT'S TILL MORN-ING...
EVERY BODY...
CREATED
MIRA-CLES...
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GENJI, DON'T...
ELDER!
THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE IT SEEMS SO
THE DIRECTION OF THE WIND, THE MOVEMENT OF THE AIR, AND THE BEHAVIOURS OF THE BIRDS—

NO! WAIT! WHAT HAPPENS IF WE ALL LEAVE THE VILLAGE AND ROBBERS WERE TO COME?
SERIOUSLY, CAN WE TRUST THESE PEOPLE?!

IT'S TRUE THAT TODAY IS...
SIMILAR TO THAT FATAL DAY TEN YEARS AGO.

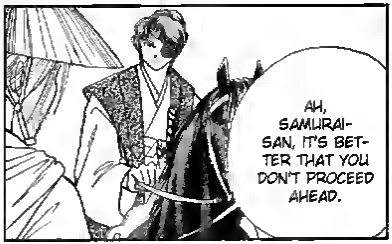
THESE PEOPLE SHOULD ALSO COME WITH US TOO.
WAH.

chatter
chatter
chatter
SO...IT'S TRUE
IT'S BETTER THAT THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN GO UP FIRST.

WE'VE BEEN KIND TO INFORM THEM.
NATSUKI—I'VE HAD ENOUGH! LET'S LEAVE SUCH PEOPLE BE. WHAT IF THERE IS NO TSUNAMI?!
DON'T TOUCH ME.
THAT'S RIGHT. COME WITH US.
I want to save them, even if it's only one life.
BRING THE CHILDREN!
LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE!
IF WE DON'T GET MOVING, EVERYONE MAY DIE.
If there were lives to be saved,
WHAT IF THERE IS NO TSUNAMI? THEN IT'D ONLY BE 'GREAT', WOULDN'T IT?
AND THAT'S STILL BETTER THAN PEOPLE DYING BECAUSE OF THE TSUNAMI.
SHUDDER
HURRY!

WHY ARE YOU TRYING SO HARD TO DO THIS...?
I ONLY...
DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY-ONE DIE.
EVERY..
EVERYONE, WE'LL STAY UP ON THE MOUNTAIN JUST FOR ONE NIGHT
WE'LL RETURN TO THE VILLAGE IF NOTHING HAPPENS— AL-RIGHT?
ARE WE . FLEE-ING?
JUST.. JUST FOR ONE NIGHT...
MIYAMOTO, LET'S GO AROUND THE VILLAGE TO EN-SURE THAT THERE AREN'T ANY VILLAGERS WHO HAVEN'T HEARD THE NEWS
That's good.
SURE.
うわあ

SFX TROTS
カツ
カツ
SFX TROTS
ヒヒン
ヒヒン
SFX RUSTLE X2


AH, SAMURAI-SAN, IT'S BETTER THAT YOU DON'T PROCEED AHEAD.

Tsunami...?

THE SEA IS STORMY, AND THE WAVES TURBULENT.
IT'S SAID THAT A TSUNAMI'S APPROACHING THE VILLAGE.

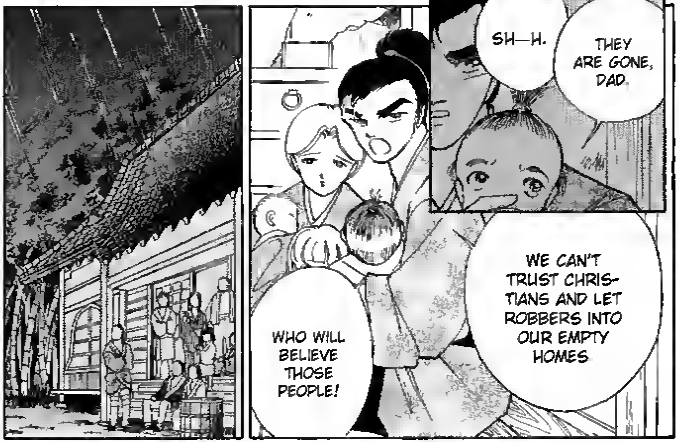
AH—I AGREE TOO.
BUT... THAT WAS A PRETTY PERSON.

He has appeared again!
AH, SAMURAI-SAN!
God's messenger?
THAT PERSON IS INDEED THE RUMOURED GOD'S MESSENGER.
TROTS
HE WENT AHEAD.
TROTS
TROTS
IS ANYONE HERE?
IS ANYONE STILL AROUND?

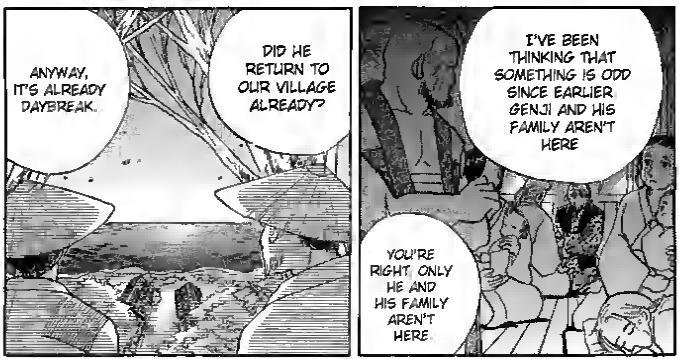
YAGYU..
YAGYU?!
ARE YOU NOT MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-DONO—?
GOD'S MESSENGER AND—
AREN'T YOU THE GIRL I MET EARLIER—? YOUR NAME'S NATSUKI..
YOU ARE...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THAT'S MY SISTER, ISN'T IT? I HEARD THAT YOU SAVED HER FROM A SNAKE.
DAMN. . IT'D BE TERRIBLE IF YAGYU FOUND OUT THAT I'M A GIRL!
YOU MET EARLIER...?
A TSU-NAMI IS COMING!
THIS ISN'T THE PLACE TO BE CONFRONTING EACH OTHER. PLEASE EVACUATE TO HIGHER GROUND, YAGYU -DONO!
SISTER?
HURRY! PLEASE GO, YAGYU-DONO!
I CAN HEAR SOME-THING! WE MUST LEAVE NOW!
WIND HOWLS
YES... THAT'S MY SISTER!

SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT HE WAS YAGYU THEN.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT YOU MET HIM? IT WAS AT THAT TIME WHEN YOU LOST YOUR SASH, WASN'T IT?
AH, YOU THINK SO TOO?
NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT HIM, HE LOOKED LIKE YAGYU JUBEE IN THE MOVIES
SFX: TROTS X2
NO...
IS HE CHASING AFTER US?
SFX: TROTS
THAT'S WEIRD.
IS ANYONE HERE—?
AM I PARANOID?
SFX: TROTS
DID HE THINK THAT I'M A GIRL..?
BEATS ME..


SH—H.
THEY ARE GONE, DAD.
WE CAN'T TRUST CHRISTIANS AND LET ROBBERS INTO OUR EMPTY HOMES
WHO WILL BELIEVE THOSE PEOPLE!

THE WIND HAS GOTTEN STRONGER.
WHAT'S THIS? IT'S RAINING TOO.


ANYWAY, IT'S ALREADY DAYBREAK.
DID HE RETURN TO OUR VILLAGE ALREADY?
I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT SOMETHING IS ODD SINCE EARLIER. GENJI AND HIS FAMILY AREN'T HERE
YOU'RE RIGHT. ONLY HE AND HIS FAMILY AREN'T HERE.

OH. . HEY, LOOK THERE....
YES, A WASTED TRIP.
WHAT, IT'S JUST A SCARE STORY IN THE END, ISN'T IT?
SFX: GOOOOO
ゴオオオオ
WAAH!

SFX: BOOM
SO THE TSUNAMI REALLY...
WHAT A THING...
OUR... VILLAGE!
IN A WINK OF AN EYE ..!

AH, OVER THERE!
GEN-GEN-JI! WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
COULD HE STILL BE IN THE VILLAGE?
NAT-SUKI!
TROTS
TROTS
AAH, GOD'S MES-SENGER IS—
NO WAY! WILL HE MAKE IT IN TIME TO SAVE HIM?
SFX GRABS
GET ON!
SFX TROTS

WHAT... ABOUT YOU...?
YOU TOO, HURRY UP! TAKE MY HORSE AND GO!
GO!
It's too late!

WAA, THE WATER HAS SWALLOWED THEM UP!
NAT-SUKI!
DAMN
SFX: GUSH
SFX: GRABS
HELP- HELD ME, PLEASE.
WHOOSH

Is there something...
Ah...
TAKE MY HAND!
I can't reach him, but it's just a little bit more.
Tadamao-sama's flute.
SFX GRABS
GRAB ONTO THIS.

There is really a tsunami ..
THAT'S GOOD THAT'S GOOD
EVERY-ONE IS SAFE!
THEY ESCAPED ONTO THE ROOF.
RELIEVED
THAT WAS A CLOSE SHAVE
IS DEEPLY SCRATCHED
I'M SORRY... I'M AFRAID THIS FLUTE WITH THE MALLOW TREFOIL COAT OF ARMS...
IT'S ALRIGHT, DON'T WORRY.
THIS .. THIS IS ..
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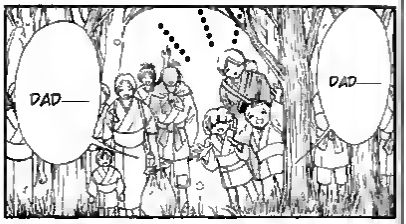
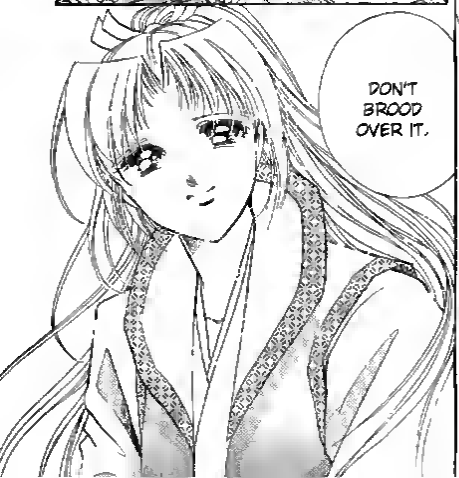
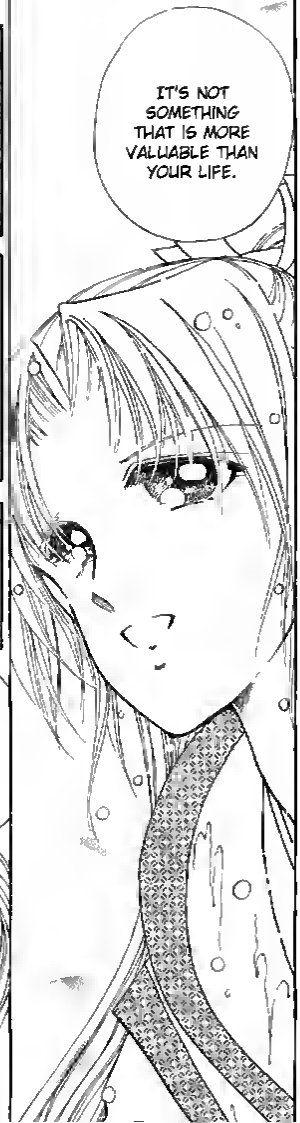

DAD——
DAD——

LOOK, YOUR CHILDREN ARE WAVING TO YOU. THEY'RE THE PEOPLE WHO HOLD YOU DEAR.
YOU-YOU....

YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE FOR ME WHO DISBELIEVED YOU...


DON'T BROOD OVER IT.


IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT IS MORE VALUABLE THAN YOUR LIFE.

KURIYAMA-SAMA! THE WEST COAST HAS BEEN HIT BY A TSUNAMI!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?! THAT PLACE WAS HIT TEN YEARS AGO TOO!
IT'S THE SAME VILLAGE AGAIN.
WHAT A TERRIBLE THING—
PLEASE DON'T WORRY. THE VILLAGERS AT THE WEST COAST HAVE EVACUATED AND EVERYONE IS SAFE.
WHAT-EVER IT IS—
THEY SAID THAT GOD'S MESSENGER INFORMED THEM OF THE TSUNAMI.
WHAT... DID YOU SAY?!

THAT'S GREAT.
THAT'S GREAT
AH, KURIYAMA-SAMA, OVER THERE.
SFX: TROTS
SFX: TROTS
IT'S ONLY THE VILLAGE THAT IS DE-STROYED
AS LONG AS WE'RE ALIVE, WE CAN BUILD OUR HOMES AGAIN
TROTS
TROTS

AH, KURIYAMA-SAMA!

CHIEF RETAINER-SAMA!
CHIEF RETAINER-SAMA!
LOOK, THE CHIEF RETAINER, KURIYAMA-SAMA, IS HERE. EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT NOW.
THIS PERSON HAS RISKED HIS LIFE TO SAVE EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE
HE EVEN HELPED THOSE WHO DIDN'T ESCAPE IN TIME.
I... had driven you out from the clan,
yet you helped the people of my clan...
Is this
whom they call God's messenger?

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It is true that Miyamoto Musashi of the Kokura Clan participated in the insurgency of Shimabara and Amakusa but his lover Otsu was a character created by Mr. Yoshigawa Eiji

Otsu, who is featured here, is only coincidentally sharing the same name as Mr. Yoshigawa Eiji's character. I could have named her Oyone-san or Oharu-san, but I decided to try and name her Otsu, which is a famous name, and Natsuki will flinch at the mention of it. I don't think that Natsuki has read the whole book... but she probably had seen Otsu in dramas on TV

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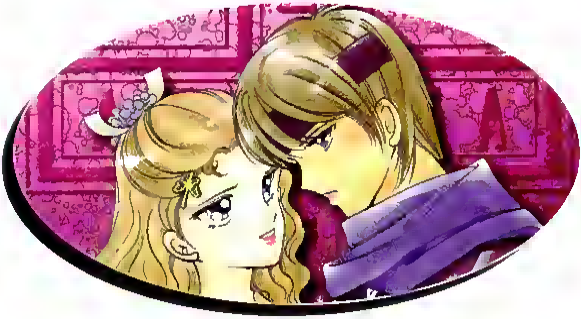

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Proofreader Luv
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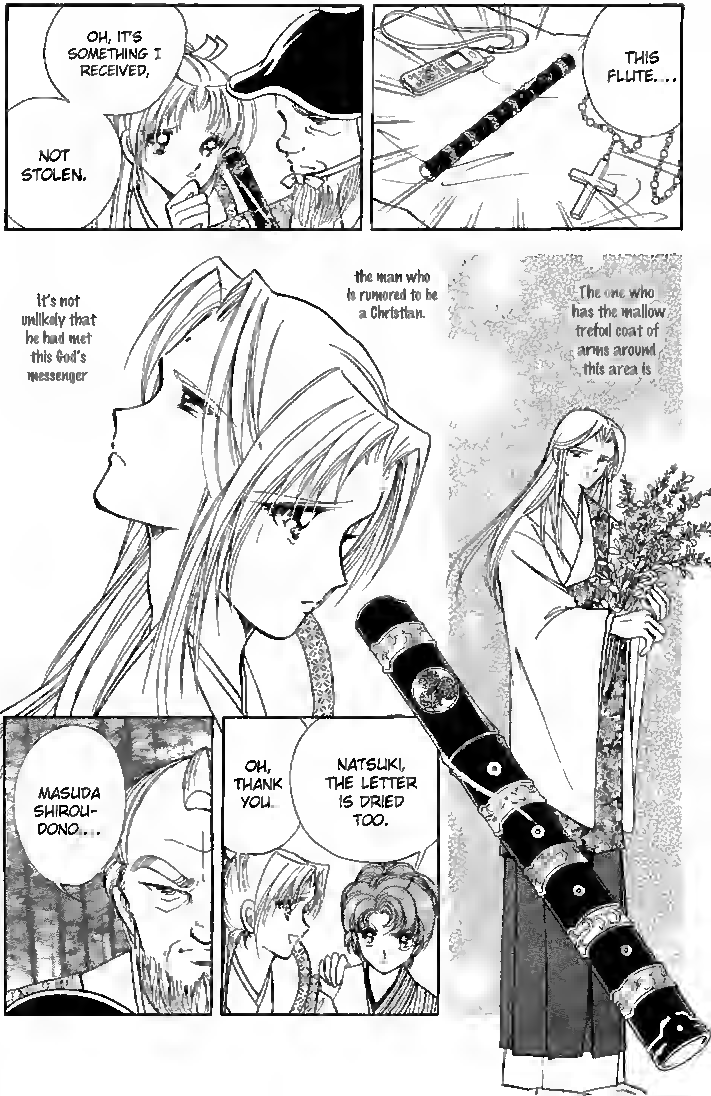
Typesetter Nanami
Quality Checker angelintheice

AMAKUSA 1637
アマクサ MIZUHO AKABOSHI PRESENTS
Chapter 25

He saves the lives of others as though it's a natural thing to do.
Is this whom they call God's messenger?
MESSENGER-SAMA, THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY DAD.


OH, IT'S SOMETHING I RECEIVED,
NOT STOLEN.
THIS FLUTE...
it's not unlikely that he had met this God's messenger
the man who is rumored to be a Christian.
The one who has the mallow trefoil coat of arms around this area is
MASUDA SHIROU-DONO...
OH, THANK YOU.
NATSUKI, THE LETTER IS DRIED TOO.

PARDON ME AGAIN, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK.
I'M REALLY THANK-FUL
I WAS RUDE AND DROVE YOU FROM THE CASTLE, YET YOU SAVED MY PEOPLE.
THAT FLUTE'S .. OWNER?
WHO IS ..
PLEASE TELL ME. ..AND I, KURIYAMA, WILL KEEP THIS KNOW-LEDGE HIDDEN IN MY HEART.

HE'S A REMARKABLE MAN.
THIS IS ..
My heart is with this person
Matsudaira Tadanao
It's really—— Matsudaira Tadanao.

This fellow is really linked up with Matsudaira Tadanao in Bungo
The flute with the mallow coat of arms—
SFX RUSTLES
I WON'T ALLOW ANYONE TO HINDER THAT FELLOW.
ARE YOU YAGYU?
I CAN SENSE THAT YOU'RE HERE

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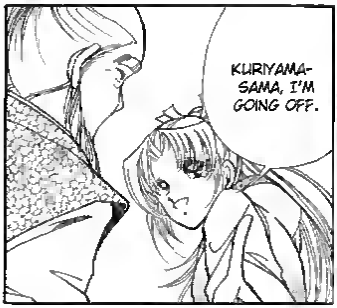

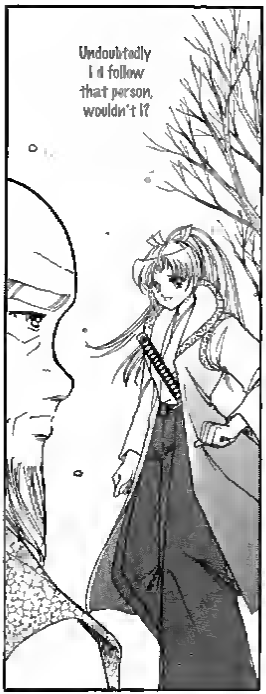

KURODA-SAMA——
If I m
not the Chief retainer of the Kuroda Clan...
NO, NO IT'S DONO WHOM YOU HAVE TO THANK,
BECAUSE I WAS ONLY PASSING HIS MESSAGE.
LOOK IT'S YOUR DONO
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
DONO.
DONO
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
DONO!
OHH, THAT'S GREAT. EVERYONE IS SAFE
I may become that person's follower risking my life to protect him

ARE YOU LEAVING ALREADY?
TADAYUKI-SAMA, WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY
This is probably the first time I saw Dono looking so joyful, smiling happily
SFX PAAN
IT'S CALLED A HIGH-FIVE
IT MEANS TO ACHIEVE VICTORY TOGETHER.
"HEIGHT FLY"?
?
YOUR HAND, LIFT IT LIKE THIS.
meeting on the battle ground
The next time we'll be divided as enemies
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Is there no other way than that——?
KURIYAMA, LET'S RETURN

Is this destiny——?
GOODBYE TADAYUKI-SAMA.

THAT ASIDE, NATSUKI...
WELL, THERE IS REASON FOR COMING BECAUSE WE HAD HELPED THE PEOPLE HERE.
IN THE END, THE KURODA CLAN IS AN X.

IT'S BETTER IF WE DON'T BECAUSE OGASAWARA TADAZANE IS THE GRANDSON OF IEYASU,
AND HE'S DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF THE FEUDAL LORDS. KOKURA IS KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH OVER KYUSHU.
ARE YOU REALLY CERTAIN ABOUT GOING TO KOKURA AFTER THIS?
YES.

WE COULD BE KILLED OR HANDED OVER TO ISMITSU THE MOMENT WE STEP INTO THEIR CASTLE.
YATSUKA, YOU'RE REALLY QUIET. YOU USUALLY WOULD SAY, "DON'T GO" AT TIMES LIKE THIS.
THIS IS BAD—— ISN'T THIS IMPOSSIBLE, NATSUKI?
NO—I DON'T WANT TO GO— WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US THIS EARLIER?!
...
TADAYUKI TOLD ME THIS THOUGH——
YOU SAW THROUGH ME...
HM?
YOU'RE HOLDING BACK SOME-THING, AREN'T YOU?
IT SEEMS THAT THERE WERE CHRISTIANS HIDING ON HAKUBA ISLAND OF THE KOKURA CLAN.

EXECUTION...?
THEY WERE CAUGHT WHILE MAKING THEIR WAY TO AMAKUSA AND WILL BE EXECUTED ON MYOUKEN CAPE ...
HE SAID THAT IT'S EITHER TODAY OR TOMORROW
IT'S SAID THAT THEY TRAMPLE ON IMAGES OF JESUS REGULARLY——
BUT NOW, THE OGASAWARA HOUSE IS CRACKING DOWN ON CHRISTIANS AND HAS BECOME MORE BRUTAL
NOW THAT YOU MENTION THE KOKURA CLAN, IT WAS PART OF THE HOSOGAKA CLAN UNTIL 1632, AND IT WAS OKAY WITH CHRISTIANITY UNTIL 1612.
WE MUST SAVE THEM...
THE LORD OF THE CLAN AT THAT TIME WAS HOSOKAWA TADAOKI. HIS WIFE, HOSOKAWA GRACIA, WAS WELL-KNOWN TO BE A CHRISTIAN.

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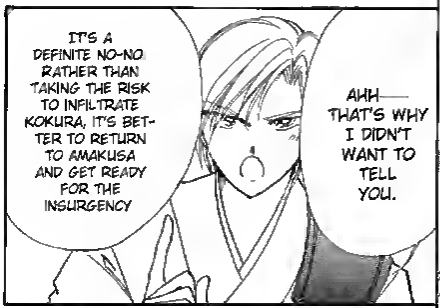

AHH—— THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU.
IT'S A DEFINITE NO-NO RATHER THAN TAKING THE RISK TO INFILTRATE KOKURA, IT'S BETTER TO RETURN TO AMAKUSA AND GET READY FOR THE INSURGENCY

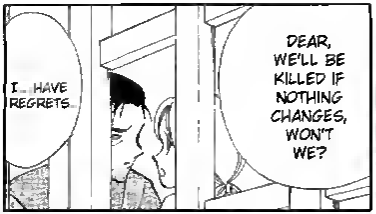
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? HALF OF WHICH ISN'T WHAT YOU FEEL, IS IT, YATSUKA-KUN?
YOU LIKE THE NATSUKI WHO'S ALWAYS HELPFUL—— DON'T YOU?
SH...SHUT ——UP.

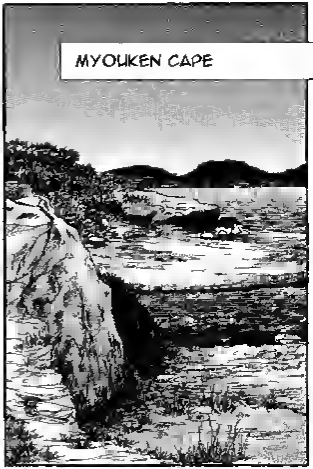
HOW CAN WE LEAVE YOU BEHIND?
DON'T SAY SUCH A STUPID THING.
NATSUKI
IF YOU GO, WE'RE GOING WITH YOU
GUYS...
How many days have I not seen him?
I want to meet Musashi-sama.
KOKURA
SURE.
OTSU, I'LL BE WITH IORI-DONO. PLEASE PREPARE THE FOOD.

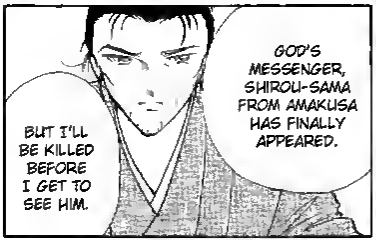
HUH.. ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK FOR MUSASHI-SAMA?
SO I'M THINKING OF GOING OUT TO SEARCH FOR HIM WITH IORI-DONO.
AND I HEARD A VERY STRANGE RUMOR.
IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE LOST CONTACT WITH MUSASHI,
He may have been a Christian in the first place.
When I found Musashi-sama, many of the things he had with him were stamped with crucifixes.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT MUSASHI HAS BECOME A FOLLOWER OF CHRISTIANITY.
But...
FATHER! I SHALL GO!
AS A FRIEND OF HIS, I CAN'T TOLERATE ANY MORE SCANDALOUS GOSSIP ABOUT HIM.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO MUSASHI-SAMA, I'LL BRING HIM BACK!
OTSU, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
FATHER, YOU HAVE WORK TO DO IN THE CASTLE, DON'T YOU? PLEASE LET ME GO INSTEAD!
I...
I, IORI, WILL PROTECT OTSU-SAMA.
PLEASE LEAVE HER TO ME.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, IORI-SAMA.

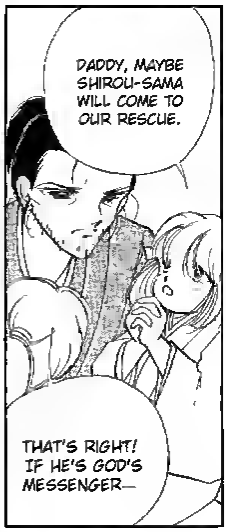
THEY SAID THAT HE WENT TO THE VILLAGE IN THE WEST COAST AND SAVED THE VILLAGERS BY WARNING THEM OF THE TSUNAMI WHICH HE PREDICTED ACCURATELY.
GOD'S MESSENGER?
I HEARD THAT GOD'S MESSENGER HAD APPEARED IN THE KURODA CLAN YESTERDAY.
IS THERE REALLY SUCH A THING..?
HM... THERE'S A POSSIBILITY.
I WONDER, WILL GOD'S MESSENGER BY ANY CHANCE, BE AT MYOUKEN CAPE?
AND IT SEEMS THAT THERE ARE CHRISTIANS BEING EXECUTED ON MYOUKEN CAPE TOMORROW.
IORI-SAMA... LET'S GO TO MYOUKEN CAPE TO TAKE A LOOK.
DON'T YOU FEEL THAT IT'S SUCH A COINCIDENCE?

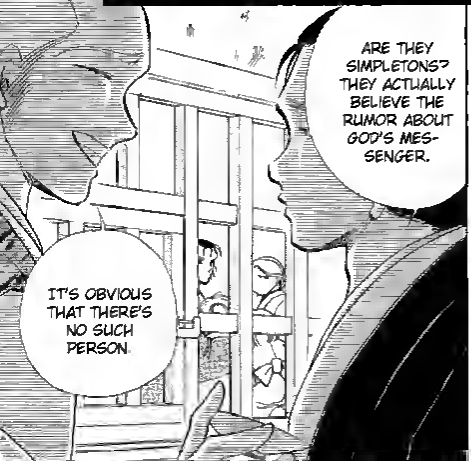

I... HAVE REGRETS.
DEAR, WE'LL BE KILLED IF NOTHING CHANGES, WON'T WE?


MYOUKEN CAPE


BUT I'LL BE KILLED BEFORE I GET TO SEE HIM.
GOD'S MESSENGER, SHIROU-SAMA FROM AMAKUSA HAS FINALLY APPEARED.

ARE THESE FELLOWS RETARDED?
HAHAHA


DADDY, MAYBE SHIROU-SAMA WILL COME TO OUR RESCUE.
THAT'S RIGHT! IF HE'S GOD'S MESSENGER—


ARE THEY SIMPLETONS? THEY ACTUALLY BELIEVE THE RUMOR ABOUT GOD'S MESSENGER.
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THERE'S NO SUCH PERSON.

...I DO BELIEVE.
GOD'S MESSENGER HAS APPEARED JUST AS THE PROPHESY HAD SAID.
HAHAHA
BUT THERE'S NO WAY HE'LL COME TO SUCH A PRISON IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE.
AND WHAT'S MORE, HE MAY BE COMING TO SAVE THEM.
HAHAHA
NOBODY WILL COME TO YOUR RESCUE.
IT'S TOO LATE. YOU GUYS WILL BE EXECUTED TOMORROW.
I BELIEVE IN GOD'S MESSEN-GER...
DEAR.

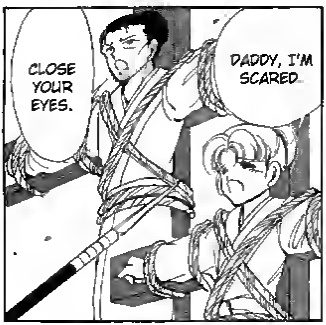
If he isn't someone worth capturing, kill him.
Shall I return to Edo?
SFX "GALLOPS"
If he's not someone you can handle—— then I'll kill him myself.
SFX GALLOPS 2x
He's someone who hides most of his tremendous power——
He's not someone who isn't worth capturing
HEY, YOU KNOW HIM? THE FELLOW WHO IS KNOWN AS 'GOD'S MESSENGER FROM AMAKUSA'
THERE ARE STILL CHRISTIANS AROUND.
HUH—— EXECUTION AT MYOUKEN CAPE?

IT SEEMED THAT THEY WANTED TO MEET HIM.
IS THERE REALLY SUCH A MAN?
CLATTER
HEY MISTER SAMURAI, ARE YOU GOING TO STAY THE NIGHT?
NO, I'M IN A HURRY.
He'll definitely be there.
If he heard about the execution he won't abandon them.
WHAT HAPPENED ALL OF A SUDDEN?
SHH—— THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I shouldn't be leaving for Edo, I should be heading after him.
although I'd be disobeying Dono——

It's to kill him.
That fellow even has Miyamoto Musashi with him.
Yes, that's right
I'm after him to kill him.
No.
Why?

SFX. FWOOSH

HEY, HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT GUY WHO'S GOING TO SAVE YOU?


DADDY, I'M SCARED.
CLOSE YOUR EYES.

SUCH A YOUNG CHILD...
WE'RE LEAVING FOR...
WE'RE LEAVING
POOR FELLOWS.
THE TEMPLE OF PARA-DISE.

SFX GALLOPS 2X
SFX RAM
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WHAT'S THAT?
SOME-THING'S COMING!

SFX: BOOM
THROWS
IN-
INTRU-
DERS!
INTRU-
DERS!
SFX: STRIKE
SFX: CLINK

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SURE.
NATSUKI! TO THE BOAT! HURRY UP!
THEY'RE ALL STRUCK WITH THE BACK OF THE SWORDS IT'S JUST LIKE YOU CHRISTIANS TO DO THIS
REMARKABLE TECHNIQUE
Yagyu Jubee

BUT I'LL DEFEAT YOU.
GLIDES

What's with this speed?
He attacked from the air
SFX. SWIFTLY
SFX. STRIKE
SFX. THUMP
It's heavy!!
MIYAMOTO, RETREAT! JUBEE IS HERE.
CLANK
I can't handle his subsequent attack.

This is the first time I think that
I actually have a rival in this world—
whom I can't defeat without killing.
What a joke. I, Nayumi Natsuki, am trembling
SFX VSSSH
SFX VSSSH

I can't die in such a place.
FWSSH
SFX APPEARS
MIYA-MOTO!

SFX: THUD
...

RUN, NATSUKI! I'LL CATCH UP LATER.
RUNNING AWAY?
SFX: THUD

MIYA-
MOTO!
SFX: GRABS
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? I WON'T LET YOU HINDER HIM.

MIYAMO-
TOOOO!

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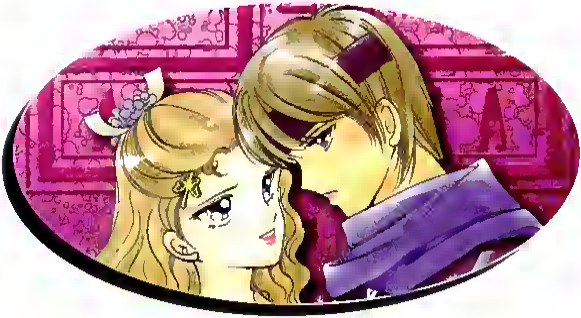

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AMAKUSA 1637
MICHIYO AKAMINE PRESENTS
Chapter 26

RUN, NATSUKI!
I WON'T LET YOU HINDER HIM.
Miyamoto!

MIYAMOTO!
SFX: SPLASH
He did it to save me.
MIYAMOTO!
SFX: WOOSH SPLASH
As he said that, Miyamoto
jumped into the sea
along with Yagyu Jubee.

MIYAMOTO FELL FROM THE CLIFF WHEN HE WAS FIGHTING WITH JUBEE
MIYAMOTO?!
YATSUKA!
NATSUKI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HURRY AND GET ON BOARD
IN ANY CASE, GET ON BOARD FIRST, AND I'LL HAVE MY MEN SEARCH THE SEA.
MIYAMOTO HAS BEEN ... WOUNDED AT HIS SHOULDER.
?
IF WE DON'T HURRY, HE'LL DIE

FLAP
FLAP
YOU TOO, GO AND SEARCH FOR HIM!
THAT GUY WON'T ABANDON YOU AND DIE
chatter
chatter
LO... LOOK!
THE SMOKE HAS CLEARED UP.
IORI-SAMA, IT'S OVER THERE, ISN'T IT? IT'S CROWDED WITH PEOPLE.
THERE'S SOME DISTURB-ANCE

THE CHRISTIANS ARE GONE!
ALL THE GUARDS ARE DOWN.
HA— JUST AS EXPECTED OF—
SHH—
IS THERE REALLY SUCH A MAN...?
AHH, GOD'S MESSENGER AND THAT SAMURAI DEFEATED MOST OF THE GUARDS BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM.
EXCUSE ME— DID YOU SEE A TALL SAMURAI THERE? HE'S A SKILLFUL SWORDS MAN.
Musashi-sama—?!
IT'S GOD'S MESSENGER!
HE RODE A HORSE AND TOOK THE CHRISTIANS AWAY IN A BLINK OF AN EYE
I SAW HIM. HE'S A VERY BEAUTIFUL YOUNG MAN.

LET'S GO THAT MAY BE MUSASHI-SAMA!
OTSU-DONO
STILL.. THEY SHOULD STILL BE OVER THERE PURSUE!
UH.. URGH
MIYAMOTO?!
AH, THERE'S A MAN SOMEONE IS AFLOAT
FOUND ANYONE?
Yagyu!
AH.....
NO— ONE—

YATSUKA!
SWISH
WHAT?! I'M KILLING THIS FELLOW
NO. DON'T!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WHEN HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS, HE'S GOING TO TRY AND KILL YOU AGAIN!
AND HE MIGHT'VE KILLED MIYAMOTO TOO!
BUT—
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IF WE KILL HIM WE CAN'T REVERSE THE ACTION——
EVEN IF WE REGRET IT, IT'LL BE TOO LATE——
YOU'RE STILL SAYING THAT? YOU COULD BE KILLED!
HE'S THE MAN WHO SLASHED MIYAMOTO!
BUT—— TO KILL HIM WHILE HE'S PASSED OUT IS RATHER——
URGH.. I KNOW!
TIE HIM UP TIGHTLY AND LOCK HIM UP!
HE'S A DANGEROUS MAN
YES, SIR.
Natsuki won't kill anyone——

And someday that may cost her her life.
Miyamoto
THEY'RE ON BOARD THE SMALL BOAT! THEY'RE WITH THE CHRISTIANS!
WE HAVE TO LEAVE, NATSUKI
Is it so swift and brief when we part ?
Miyamoto

WHEN THAT MAN WAKES UP, HE'S GOING TO KILL NATSUKI, ISN'T HE?!
NATSUKI, HE'S DANGEROUS!
WHY DO WE HAVE TO SAVE YAGYU?!
WHAT?! IN THE END, WE DIDN'T FIND MIYAMOTO-KUN?!
THANKS... EIJI, YOU MUST'VE FELT UNEASY BEING SEPARATED FROM KICHOU TOO... I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T REALISED HOW YOU'VE FELT...
NATSUKI, ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU'RE ALL WET. GO AND GET CHANGE.
SFX: SPLASH
YES... ALTHOUGH WE'RE APART, I ALWAYS THINK OF HER.
I SHOULD'VE LEFT MY MOBILE WITH HER.
THAT'S TRUE. IT'D BE GREAT IF MIYAMOTO HAD A MOBILE TOO.....

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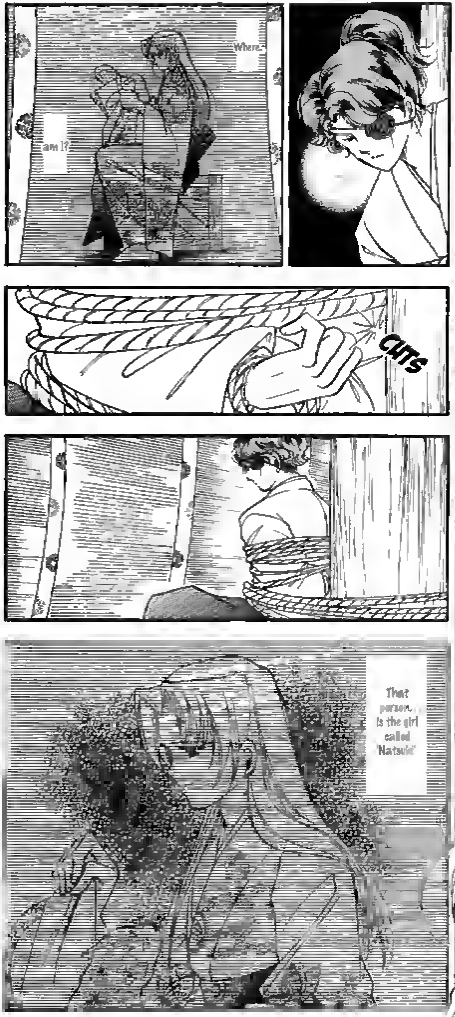
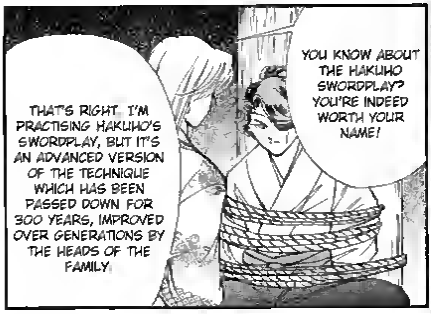


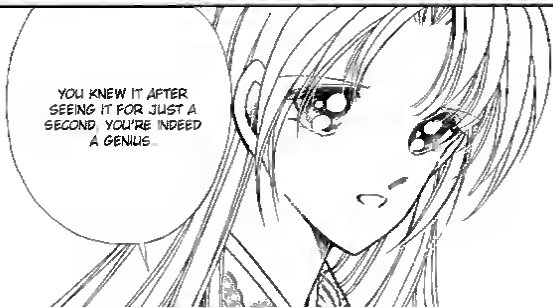
That's what Miyamoto Musashi said to Amakusa Shirou
RUN, NATSUKI!
Is God's messenger a girl?
A swordplay which I've never seen is practised by - a girl -
HUMPH SO YOU'RE REALLY SHIROU .
OOPS ...
SO YOU'VE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, YAGYU JUBEE
HEY, SHIROU

OH, AMAZING!
WHAT'S YOUR SWORDPLAY CALLED? ITS TECHNIQUE RESEMBLES HAKUHO SWORDPLAY, BUT YET IT'S NOT. IT'S MORE —

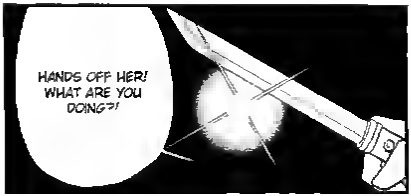
OOH, D-MN... I'VE BEEN DISCOVERED!

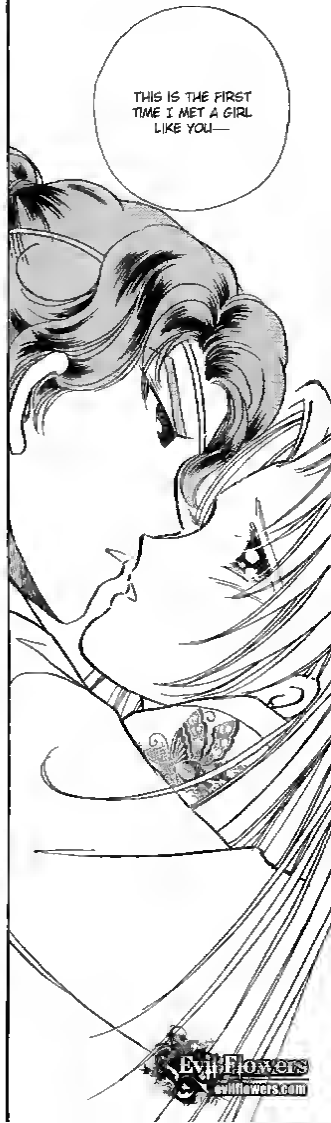

YOU KNOW ABOUT THE HAKUHO SWORDPLAY? YOU'RE INDEED WORTH YOUR NAME!
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M PRACTISING HAKUHO'S SWORDPLAY, BUT IT'S AN ADVANCED VERSION OF THE TECHNIQUE WHICH HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN FOR 300 YEARS, IMPROVED OVER GENERATIONS BY THE HEADS OF THE FAMILY.

300 YEARS.. ?


YOU KNEW IT AFTER SEEING IT FOR JUST A SECOND. YOU'RE INDEED A GENIUS...

She's like a girl..
whom I've never seen before.
What a mystifying girl. She's so happy talking about swordplay
SFX: WOOSH
SFX: GRABS!
Ha...





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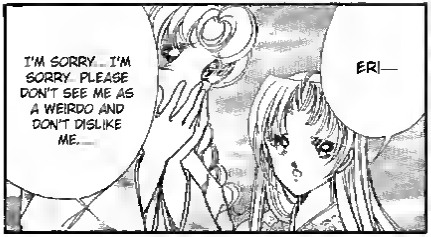
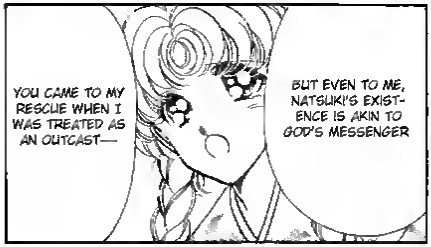
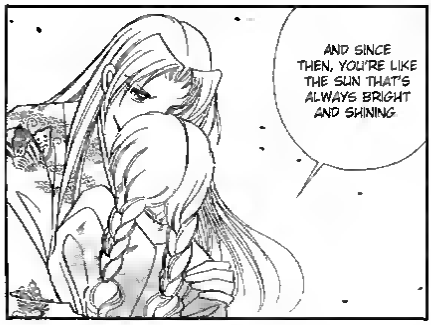
SFX: SLASH
ERI, STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I WON'T LET YOU OFF IF YOU INTEND TO KILL NATSUKI! THAT'S THE ONLY THING I WON'T ALLOW!
YATSUKA! PLEASE COME, YATSUKA!
STOP THE BLEEDING—
NATSUKI?

THE WOUND ISN'T VERY DEEP. AS EXPECTED OF YOU TO DODGE INSTANTLY...
ERI... I'M SORRY.
ERI...?
I'M SORRY TO PUT YOU THROUGH THIS
I LET MY GUARD DOWN BECAUSE HE WAS TIED UP
NO...
MAYBE I...
CAN KILL... I CAN KILL A MAN, NATSUKI.
I SURPRISED MYSELF TOO...


I'M SORRY... I'M SORRY. PLEASE DON'T SEE ME AS A WEIRDO AND DON'T DISLIKE ME...
ERI—


YOU CAME TO MY RESCUE WHEN I WAS TREATED AS AN OUTCAST—
BUT EVEN TO ME, NATSUKI'S EXISTENCE IS AKIN TO GOD'S MESSENGER


AND SINCE THEN, YOU'RE LIKE THE SUN THAT'S ALWAYS BRIGHT AND SHINING

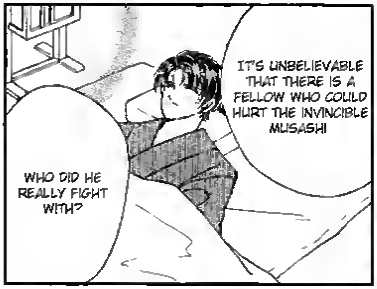
ERI.
THEREFORE, IF NATSUKI'S DEAD, I WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE...

I'M ONLY SCARED OF NATSUKI LEAVING THIS WORLD, AND IT FRIGHTENS ME MORE THAN MY OWN DEATH

I KNOW AND I BELIEVE HE'S STILL ALIVE...
I'M WORRIED ABOUT MIYAMOTO-KUN TOO
OF COURSE...
WE'LL LIVE THROUGH THIS TOGETHER, OKAY?
YES... YOU'RE RIGHT...
WHEN IT TURNS DARK, WE'LL GO ASHORE AND IF WE LOOK FOR DOCTORS WE MAY GET A CLUE TO HIS WHEREABOUTS
She is everyone's sun— as well as mine.
This person is the sun.
may have felt that Natsuki's death is more frightening than his own
I believe that Miyamoto too

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW THAT YOU KNOW GOD'S MESSENGER IS A GIRL? YOU'RE GOING TO SNITCH ON HER TO IEMITSU, AREN'T YOU? BUT YOU'RE NOT RETURNING TO EDO
——
—I REALLY CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN EVEN FOR A SPLIT SECOND. HAVE YOU FALLEN FOR NATSUKI? YOU CAN'T HAVE HER.
WHY?
IEMITSU LIKES MEN, DOESN'T HE? HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN WOMEN
IF THAT PERSON LEARNED ABOUT HER, HE MAY QUIT KILLING HER
IF THAT'S THE CASE—
THEN THE RUMOUR ABOUT IEMITSU CAUSING YOU TO BECOME ONE-EYE IS PROBABLY TRUE
!?
IF THE WOMAN IS LIKE HER, THEN IT'LL BE A DIFFERENT STORY. I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE LIKE HER
HM——COULD IT BE THAT IEMITSU AND I HAVE THE SAME INTEREST?

!
HUMPH... IT'S PAY-BACK FOR KISSING NATSUKI
SPITS
MUSA-SHI-SAMA!
MUSASHI!
IORI-SAMA, THERE ARE PEOPLE GATH-ERING OVER THERE



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DON'T GO ANYWHERE... STAY BY MY SIDE
IT'S ME! I'M OTSU, MUSASHI-SAMA I'M RIGHT HERE WITH YOU!
EXCUSE ME... THIS
OTSU-DONO, THESE SEEMS TO BE MUSASHI'S BELONGING
LOOK, THIS WAS AMONG HIS STUFF—
MUSASHI-SAMA..
THIS IS FOR OTSU-DONO, ISN'T IT?

DID A WOUNDED MAN ARRIVED HERE TODAY? HE SHOULD HAVE APPEARED BY THE SEA,
EXCUSE ME
AND HAS A SWORD WOUND AT HIS LEFT SHOULDER—
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AH...

That's the ornamental hairpin, which Miyamoto bought for Otsu-san—
NO, HE ISN'T! THAT MAN IS ALREADY DEAD!
CLACK
YOU'RE OTSU-SAN, AREN'T YOU? MIYAMOTO'S HERE, ISN'T HE?
YOU'RE LYING!
THAT'S WHY HE'LL NEVER RETURN TO YOUR SIDE AGAIN!
NO, I'M NOT! HE'S DEAD!

YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT MAN AWAY!
STOP!
YOU'RE HERE, AREN'T YOU MIYAMOTO?!
LET ME SEE MIYAMOTO!
MIYAMOTO!
YOU'RE HERE, AREN'T YOU MIYAMOTO?!
MUSASHI?!
NATSUKI
NATSUKI..?

STOP! THAT MAN IS MINE!
MIYAMOTO!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU CAN'T MOVE YET. YOU WERE AT THE BRINK OF DEATH!
NATSUKI IS...CALLING ME. I'VE GOT TO GO...
SFX. BAM!
MUSASHI-SAMA...?
WHERE...?
MUSASHI-SAMA?!

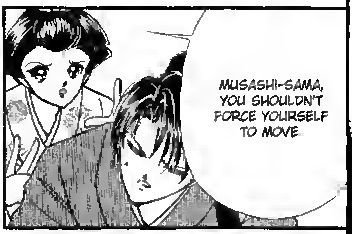
GALLOPS
GALLOPS
GALLOPS
LISTEN, A HORSE IS TROTTING AWAY
HUH.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THAT GUEST, HE'S BEEN TAKEN AWAY BY A SAMURAI-SAN. WHAT A RECKLESS THING TO DO—
MIYAMOTO!
MUSA-SHI-SAMA...?
YATSUKA, CHASE AFTER THAT HORSE.
IT SHOULD BE OVER THERE NOW.

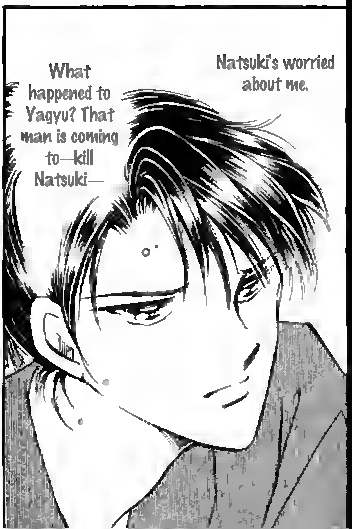
SHH— DON'T WORRY, MUSASHI IS HERE
IORI-SAMA! DIDN'T YOU TAKE MUSASHI-SAMA AWAY ON THE HORSE...?
OTSU -DONO,
OTSU-DONO!
IORI-SAMA...
?
THOSE PEOPLE ARE WITH GOD'S MESSENGER, AREN'T THEY?
HOW CAN I LET THEM TAKE MUSASHI AWAY?! LET'S MOVE TO ANOTHER INN WHILE THEY ARE STILL GONE
NO ONE'S ON THE HORSE!
GALLOP$
GALLOP$
GALLOP$
...

YES...
ISN'T SHE MIYAMOTO MUSASHI'S LEGENDARY LOVER?
I'VE MET OTSU-SAN, AND IT SEEMS THAT SHE'S WITH MIYAMOTO
WELL, IT'S A RELIEF SINCE WE KNOW THAT HE'S ALIVE
NATSUKI, YOU WON'T LOSE TO SUCH A WOMAN
She has intensely passionate eyes,
SHE'S NOT 'SUCH A WOMAN'...
and I think she also loves Miyamoto with all her heart.
BUT WHEN MIYA-MOTO RECOVERS, HE'LL SHAKE THEM OFF AND RETURN TO YOUR SIDE.

Can he bear to leave that person—?

Miyamoto.

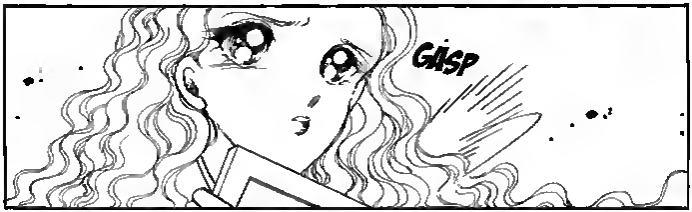




Shimabara
THERE'S A FIRE!
IT'S KICHOU-SAMA'S HOUSE
SFX: ABLAZE
Miyamoto.
Natsuki
OH, HOHO-HOO...!
Lady Omitsu

I'M ONLY TAKING THIS!
IT'S DANGEROUS, KICHOU-SAMA!
HURRY UP!
OMITSU-SAMA
CLANK
Biji-sama!

I WON'T LET YOU HAVE YOUR WAY ANYMORE.
I KNOW THAT YOU CHEAT ON DONO AND USE HIS MONEY TO SPLURGE ON THE PEASANTS


GASP

THEY CAUGHT KICHOU-SAMA—
KI...KICHOU-SAMA!
THEY'RE TAKING HER AWAY...!

WHEN I WAS LOOKING FOR REFERENCE OF ROWS OF HOUSES AND STREETS, I VISITED UZUMASA MOVIE VILLAGE IN KYOTO, WHERE TOEI MOVIE STUDIO IS. THE PHOTO THAT I TOOK CAME OUT MORE TASTEFUL THAN THE ACTUAL THING (WHICH WAS BRIGHTLY PAINTED). I WATCHED 'ABARANGER' (HAHA) RIGHT AFTER MY VISIT, AND BURST OUT LAUGHING AS IT SHOWED THE SAME PLACE BEING DESTROYED (WELL, THAT WAS AN INTERESTING STORY). I ALSO VISITED SHOCHIKU MOVIE STUDIO (KAMAKURA CINEMA WORLD THEME PARK) AND EDO WONDERLAND BUT NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT SPOT YET, WHICH IS EDO MUSEUM.

I WANT MY MANGA NOW——
BAM!
Waaaa

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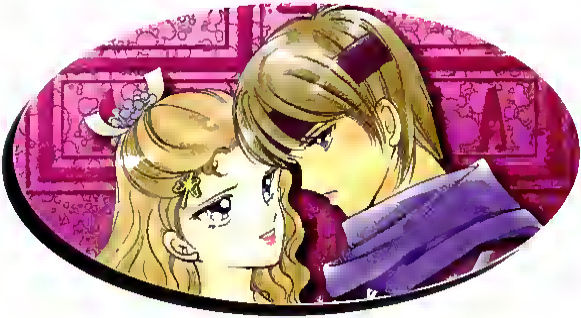

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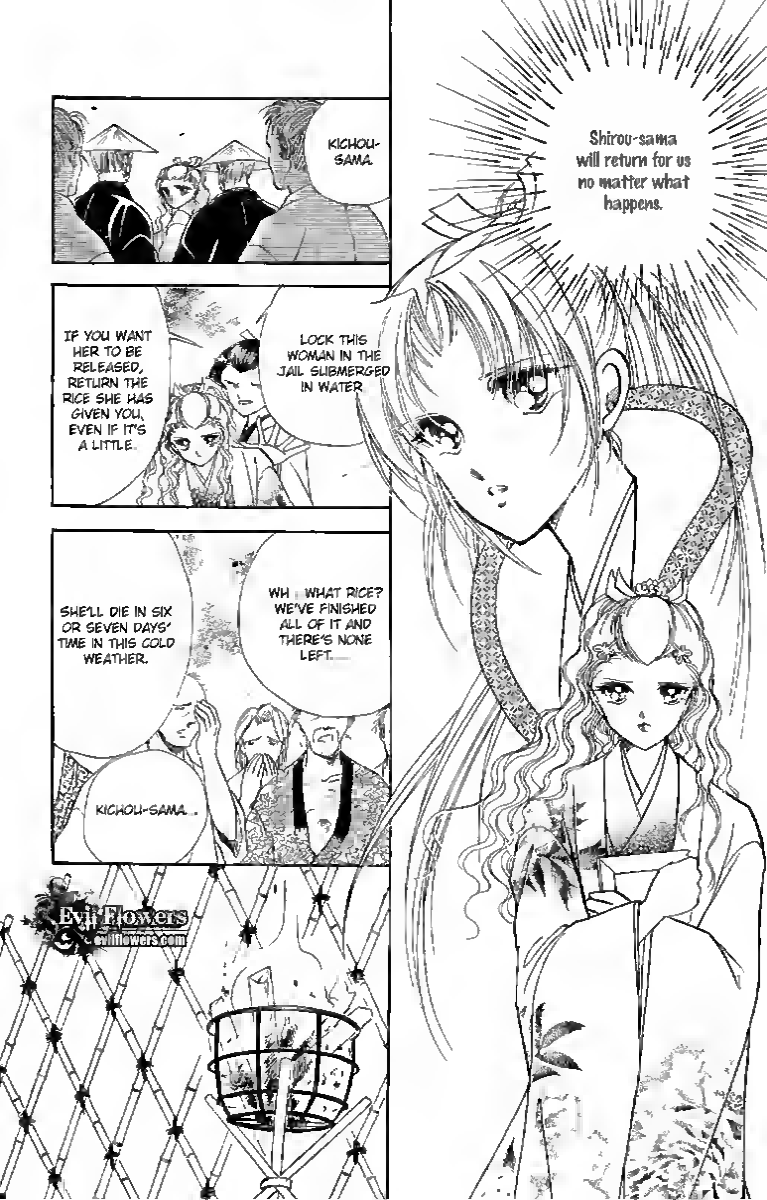
AMAKUSA 1637
アマクサ
MICHIYO AKAISHI PRESENTS
Chapter 27

KICHOU-SAMA!
THEY'RE TAKING KICHOU-SAMA AWAY.
OUR HOPE IS...
BEING EXTINGUISHED...
THERE ISN'T ANY NEED TO WORRY
I BELIEVE IN THAT PERSON HE'LL DEFINITELY RETURN


KICHOU-SAMA.
Shirou-sama will return for us no matter what happens.
IF YOU WANT HER TO BE RELEASED, RETURN THE RICE SHE HAS GIVEN YOU, EVEN IF IT'S A LITTLE.
LOCK THIS WOMAN IN THE JAIL SUBMERGED IN WATER.
SHE'LL DIE IN SIX OR SEVEN DAYS' TIME IN THIS COLD WEATHER.
WH... WHAT RICE? WE'VE FINISHED ALL OF IT AND THERE'S NONE LEFT.....
KICHOU-SAMA..
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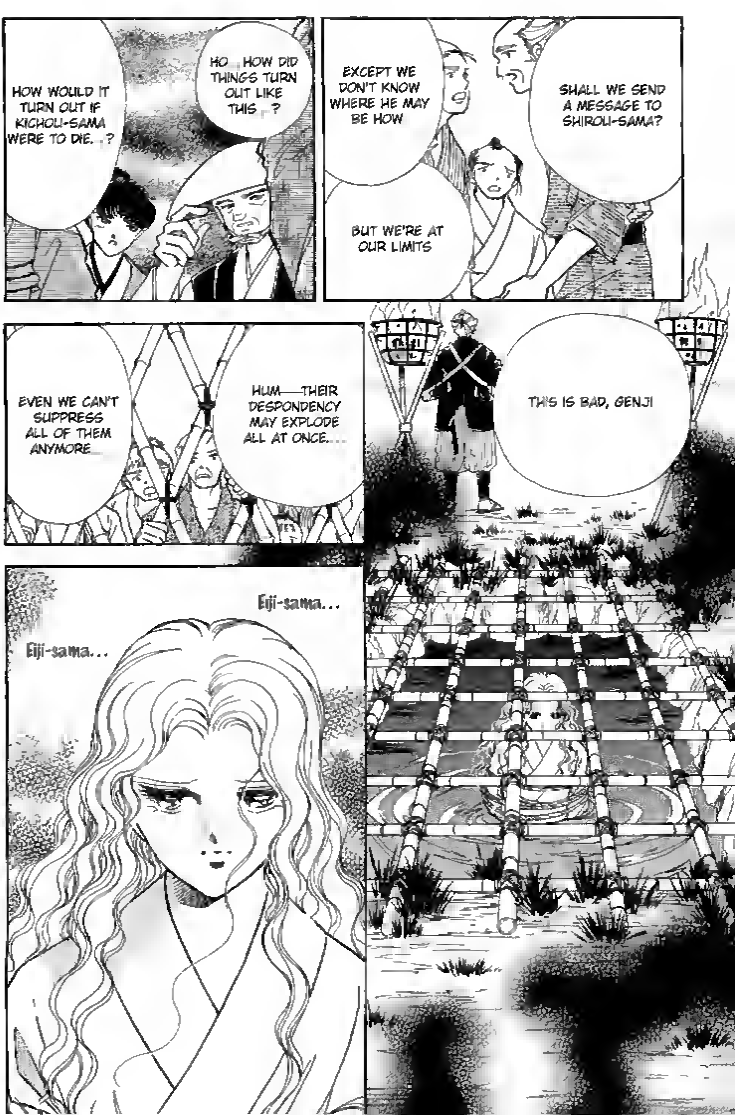

HOW WOULD IT TURN OUT IF KICHOU-SAMA WERE TO DIE...?
HO...HOW DID THINGS TURN OUT LIKE THIS...?
EXCEPT WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE MAY BE NOW
SHALL WE SEND A MESSAGE TO SHIROU-SAMA?
BUT WE'RE AT OUR LIMITS
EVEN WE CAN'T SUPPRESS ALL OF THEM ANYMORE...
HUM...THEIR DESPONDENCY MAY EXPLODE ALL AT ONCE...
THIS IS BAD, GENJI
Eiji-sama...
Eiji-sama...

I want to see you,
just for one last time.

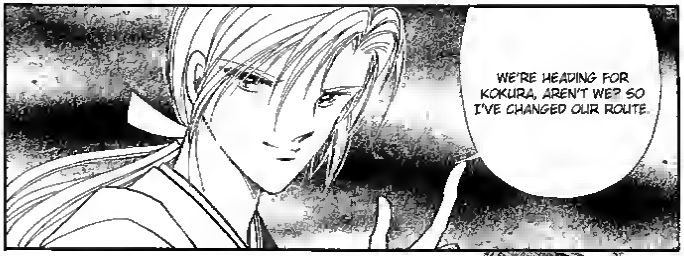
AH
WOOSH

SFX: VSSSHH

NATSUKI, THANK YOU
NO PROBLEM
THAT WAS CLOSE—
GRABS
YOU MUST TREASURE THIS SINCE IT'S FROM KICHOU-SAN IT'S AN IMPORTANT MUFFLER
YES, IT IS . . .
IF HE'S STILL IN KOKURA, WE CAN TURN BACK IMMEDIATELY
BUT... MIYAMOTO-KUN MUST BE WORRYING TOO
I WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AMAKUSA. I'M WORRIED

You can't take that man away!
BUT...
LET'S SNEAK INTO HIS PLACE IN KOKURA TO TAKE A LOOK IF HE'S IN MIYAMOTO MUSASHI'S HOUSE WE'LL SURELY SEE HIM SOON
TIGHTENS
NATSUKI...
IT'S BEST NOT TO PLACE TOO MUCH FAITH IN TOMORROW

EIJI.
I CAME HERE MUCH EARLIER THAN YOU, AND I'VE SEEN A LOT.
THE DOCTORS AND THE MEDICINES ARE SO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN THE 20TH CENTURY THAT PEOPLE DIE EASILY
Run! Natsuki!
IF YOU DON'T SEE HIM WHILE YOU STILL CAN, YOU MAY NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.
YATSUKA!
OH



*T/N SHIMAZU MITSUHISA WENT TO EDO FOR SANKIN KOTAI (REFER TO CHAPTER 19 PAGE 21) WHICH WAS A BIENNIAL CHORE FOR KAGOSHIMA CLAN BUT AN ANNUAL CHORE FOR THE OTHER CLANS. IT'S ALSO PARTLY BECAUSE OF THAT KAGOSHIMA CLAN WAS ABLE TO PRESERVE THEIR RESOURCES AND THEIR WEALTH TO BE ONE OF THE RICHEST AND POWERFUL CLAN IN EDO PERIOD.

KO-DONO, YOU CAME ALL THE WAY FROM YOUR NATIVE SOIL TO KOKURA, SPECIALLY TO FETCH MITSUHISA-DONO WHO HAS RETURNED FROM EDO*. DIDN'T YOU?
Kagoshima Clan.
The concubine of Shimazu Mitsuhisa. Lady Oko.

APART FROM FETCHING MY DONO ..I'M ALSO HERE ABOUT SOME UNSTABLE SITUATIONS THAT I'VE OVERHEARD
SO THE RUMOUR'S RIGHT ABOUT YOU TWO BEING LOVE-BIRDS
YES.
ARE YOU REFERRING TO THE AREAS AROUND SHIMABARA ..? THE ISSUE ABOUT THE CHRISTIANS WHO ARE STIRRING UP TROUBLE?
I AM GREATLY RELIEVED HAVING HEARD WHAT YOU'VE JUST SAID
DON'T WORRY IF THE REBELLION BREAKS OUT, I, OGASAWARA WILL ANNIHILATE ALL THE REBELS.
RUSTLE
THAT'S GOOD, THAT'S GOOD
I, OGASAWARA TADAZANE, WILL PROTECT KYUSHU NO MATTER WHAT

I HAD HEARD THAT HE WAS A GENERAL OF VALOUR WHO HAD ACCOMPLISHED NUMEROUS MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS ...
BUT HE ISN'T A REMARKABLE MAN, IS HE, THAT OGASAWARA TADAZANE.
HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SHIMABARA AMAKUSA YET HE SAID THAT HE'LL ANNIHILATE ALL THE REBELS AND THAT HE'LL PROTECT US—
HOW RIDICULOUS.
WITH ONLY 150,000 GOKU, OGASAWARA IS PLANNING TO KEEP A TIGHT REIN OF US, THE SHIMAZU HOUSE*,
WHO COMMANDS 700,000 GOKU?
* THE SHIMAZU HOUSE LED THE KAGOSHIMA CLAN WHICH WAS ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST AND MOST POWERFUL ONES IN EDO PERIOD WITH CONTROL OVER A LARGE AREA OF KYUSHU.

*T/N: HONJIN WAS THE OFFICIAL INN OR LODGING ALONG THE ROAD FOR THE FEUDAL LORDS AND COURT NOBLES TO STAY THE NIGHT DURING EDO PERIOD

Inner Kokura, Honjin* of Shimazu House

HER LADYSHIP HAS RETURNED

HER LADYSHIP HAS RETURNED——

YES, MY LADY

LISTEN, BE SURE THAT THE NEWS OF IEHISA-SAMA'S DEATH DOES NOT LEAK OUT

UNTIL DONO HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY MADE THE HEAD OF THE CLAN, THE SHIMAZU HOUSE CAN'T AFFORD EVEN THE SMALLEST SLIP UP

THE MAN WHO HAS POWER OVER KYUSHU IS MY DONO, SHIMAZU MITSUHISA-SAMA,

AND HIS ERA IS ABOUT TO BEGIN SINCE HIS FATHER, IEHISA-SAMA, IS DEAD——EVEN IF THE CHRISTIANS ARE STAGING AN INSURGENCY

THERE'S NO REASON NOT TO MAKE USE OF THAT.

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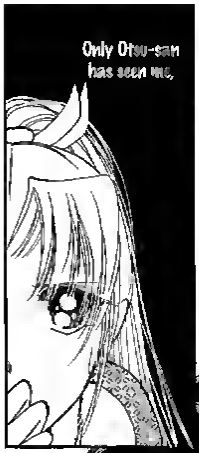
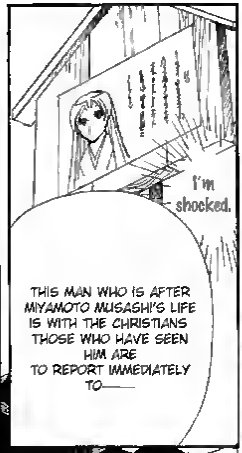
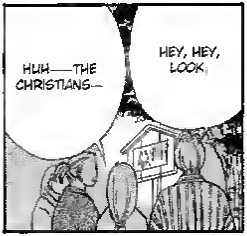
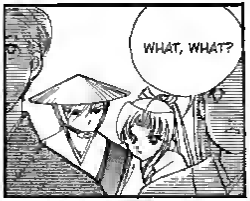
Hurry back to my side.
Please hurry back from Edo—— Pono
HUH——WHEN YOU SAID SHIMAZU DO YOU MEAN THE SHIMAZU OF KAGOSHIMA?
LOOK OVER THERE, THE CIRCULAR CREST WITH THE CHARACTER 'TEN' INSIDE—— THAT'S THE SYMBOL OF THE SHIMAZU HOUSE. THE LANTERNS ARE LIT. IS SOMEONE STAYING THE NIGHT?
THESE ARE HONJIN WHERE THE FEUDAL LORDS LODGE
HM——SO THIS IS KOKURA? THERE ARE MANY SOMEWHAT MAGNIFICENT BUILDINGS
NATSUKI, NATSUKI, MIYAMOTO-KUN'S PLACE IS OVER THERE
THAT'S RIGHT. IF I'M NOT WRONG, THE HEAD OF THE CLAN NOW IS SHIMAZU IEHISA AND TWO YEARS LATER, HE'LL DIE OF ILLNESS AND HIS SON WILL TAKE HIS PLACE BEGINNING THE MITSUHISA'S ERA.
THE SHIMAZU HOUSE RULED KAGOSHIMA UNTIL THE MEIJI PERIOD, AND EVEN BECOME A NOBLE FAMILY WITH A STATUS LOWER THAN THE EMPEROR BUT HIGHER THAN THE SAMURAI.

THE LANTERNS SHOW THE CREST OF THE OGASAWARA HOUSE THEY COME FROM THE CASTLE TO PROTECT MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-SAMA.
THE SECURITY IS... RATHER TIGHT, ISN'T IT?

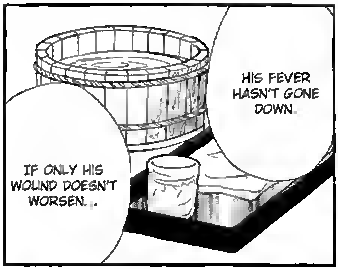

Only Otsu-san has seen me,

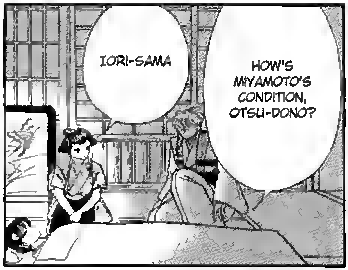

I'm shocked.
THIS MAN WHO IS AFTER MIYAMOTO MUSASHI'S LIFE IS WITH THE CHRISTIANS THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN HIM ARE TO REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO——


HUH——THE CHRISTIANS——
HEY, HEY, LOOK.


WHAT, WHAT?

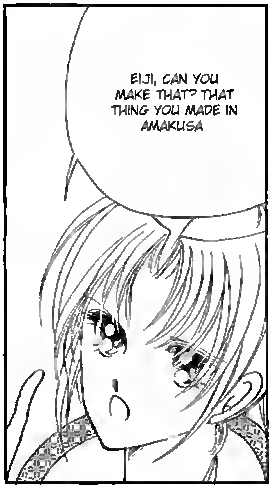
but she goes this far just so that I can't get close to Miyamoto—


HIS FEVER HASN'T GONE DOWN.
IF ONLY HIS WOUND DOESN'T WORSEN...


IORI-SAMA
HOW'S MIYAMOTO'S CONDITION, OTSU-DONO?

DONO HAS HELPED AND EVEN SENT FOR A DOCTOR.
HOPEFULLY HE'LL GET BETTER...

WELL... THAT ...I CAN...


EIJI, CAN YOU MAKE THAT? THAT THING YOU MADE IN AMAKUSA

WHAT SHALL WE DO? WE REALLY CAN'T GET VERY CLOSE THIS WAY.

ONCE SHE HAS THE IDEA, SHE WON'T LISTEN TO WHATEVER WE SAY.
THIS IS REALLY RECKLESS...AND DANGEROUS—
HM—PH...
AH...OVER THERE.
AH...!
AH! SOMETHING IS IN THE SKY!

AH—
IT'S NOT OVER THERE—
PULL! PULL!
THIS IS BAD! IT SEEMS THAT SOMEONE SAW HER!
HE'LL RETURN TO MY SIDE IN A LITTLE WHILE
IS DONO AT THE HARBOUR NOW? IS HE ARRIVING SOON?
WAH—
YES.

HIC...
PITTER-PATTER
PITTER-PATTER
SFX: WHISH
A...CRUCIFIX...
DING

AH—I'M SORRY TO HAVE FRIGHTENED YOU. I JUST SLIPPED AND FELL——
FROM... THE SKY... YOU WERE FLYING...?!
I'M NOT A SUSPICIOUS INTRUDER—— I JUST MISSED MY TARGET A LITTLE——
I'M SORRY. I'LL BE LEAVING SOON
IT'S HERE!
HE JUST FELL RIGHT HERE.

SEEKING SANCTUARY IN OUR PLACE.
THEY SAID THAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR CHRISTIANS AND THAT GOD'S MESSENGER WHO IS AFTER MUSASHI-SAMA'S LIFE HAS APPEARED,
MY LADY!
LADY OKO!
SOMEHOW THE PEOPLE FROM THE KOKURA CLAN ARE OUTSIDE...
I'LL SEE THEM NOW. YOU MAY LEAVE
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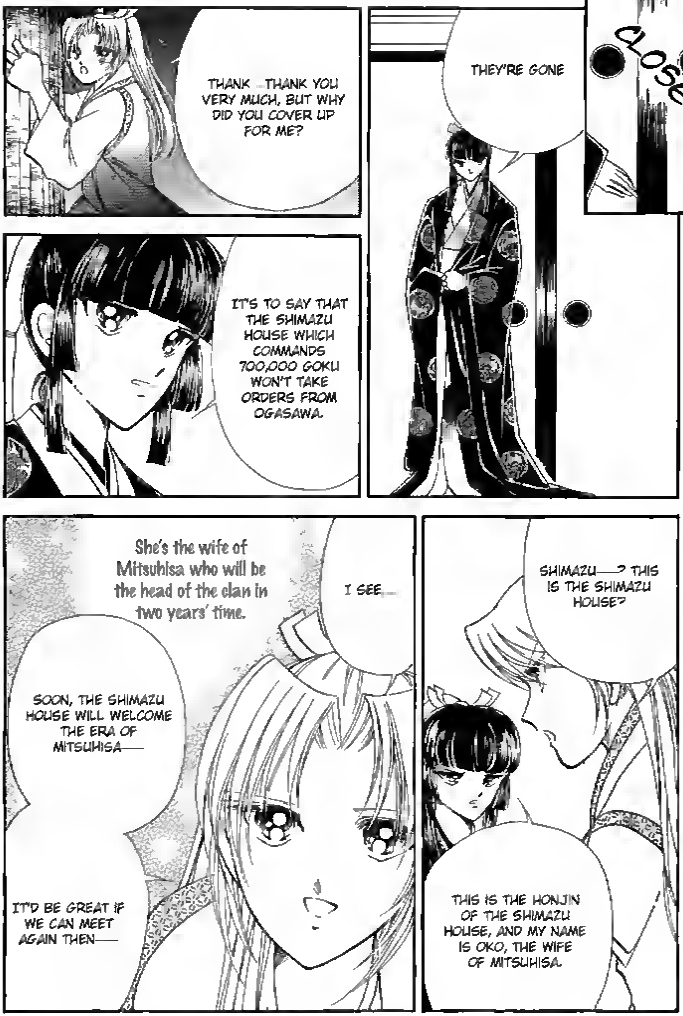
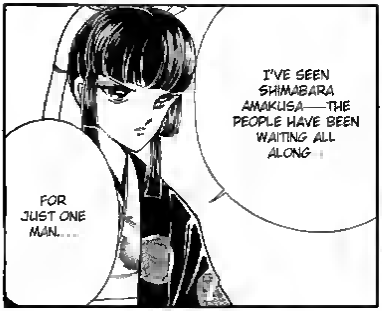
I'M SORRY, I'LL BE LEAVING SOON.
—YOU'LL BE INVOLVED IN THIS SO IT'S BEST THAT YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
IS THAT TRUE—? ARE YOU PERHAPS SHIROU FROM... AMAKUSA...?

HUH...
WAIT STAY THERE!
THERE OUGHT TO BE A CHRISTIAN THERE!
PLEASE LET US LOOK AROUND THE GARDEN
THERE'S NO SUCH PERSON! IF WE EVER FIND SUCH A PERSON, WE'LL HAND HIM OVER TO THE KOKURA CLAN NO MATTER WHAT PLEASE GET OUT NOW...
THERE SHOULD BE A CHRISTIAN WHO SOUGHT SANCTUARY HERE——
HOW NOISY! WHAT'S THE MATTER? DON'T YOU ROUGHNECKS KNOW THAT THIS IS THE HONJIN OF THE SHIMAZU HOUSE!
OR COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE SUSPECTING THE SHIMAZU HOUSE?
WE'RE BUSY GETTING READY TO WELCOME OUR DONO
NO...NO..


THANK...THANK YOU VERY MUCH, BUT WHY DID YOU COVER UP FOR ME?
THEY'RE GONE
CLOSE
IT'S TO SAY THAT THE SHIMAZU HOUSE WHICH COMMANDS 700,000 GOKU WON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM OGASAWA.
She's the wife of Mitsuhisa who will be the head of the clan in two years' time.
I SEE...
SHIMAZU——? THIS IS THE SHIMAZU HOUSE?
SOON, THE SHIMAZU HOUSE WILL WELCOME THE ERA OF MITSUHISA——
IT'D BE GREAT IF WE CAN MEET AGAIN THEN——
THIS IS THE HONJIN OF THE SHIMAZU HOUSE, AND MY NAME IS OKO, THE WIFE OF MITSUHISA.

HOW DID YOU——
——YOU...
History has changed again?!
Iehisa is dead?! He should've lived for another two more years...
——If that's the case, it's not by coincidence that I ended up here.
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT IEHISA-SAMA'S DEATH, WHICH IS KEPT SECRET AND NOT TOLD TO ANYONE!
DESTINY HAS TOLD ME THAT——
What?!


I'VE SEEN SHIMABARA AMAKUSA——THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WAITING ALL ALONG
FOR JUST ONE MAN……

So it's true… that he has mysterious powers?

THE MAN WHO'S CALLED AMAKUSA SHIROU——
It's as though he doesn't belong to this world
Such beautiful eyes
THE ONE KNOWN AS GOD'S MESSENGER WHO CREATES MIRACLES

A young man who comes from the sky with miraculous powers——
A radiant smile..
YES. THAT'S WHY I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE CAUGHT.
THERE ARE 30,000 PEOPLE WAITING FOR ME
This is——

EXCUSE ME——COULD YOU PLEASE ALLOW ME TO MEET THE DONO OF SHIMAZU?
MY LADY, DONO HAS ARRIVED
I'LL BE WITH HIM SOON
I'VE COME TO VISIT THE FEUDAL LORDS IN ALL PARTS OF KYUSHU
FOR JUST ONE REQUEST
WHAT BUSINESS DOES GOD'S MESSENGER HAVE WITH DONO?
YOU WENT TO KURODA AND HOSOKAWA... TO ASK THEM OF THIS AND SURVIVE TO BE HERE?!
WELL——YES
I HOPE THAT YOU WON'T ATTACK SHIMABARA EVEN WHEN THE REBELLION HAPPENS——I ONLY ASK OF THIS
A REQUEST——? WHAT'S THAT?

I don't believe this.
He approached all the feudal lords, asking them of that and still live to stand here, smiling away.
Could he have won those feudal lords over to his side——?
he came from the sky.
This man.
may have powers that are beyond our imagination——
God's messenger...
PLEASE WAIT HERE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
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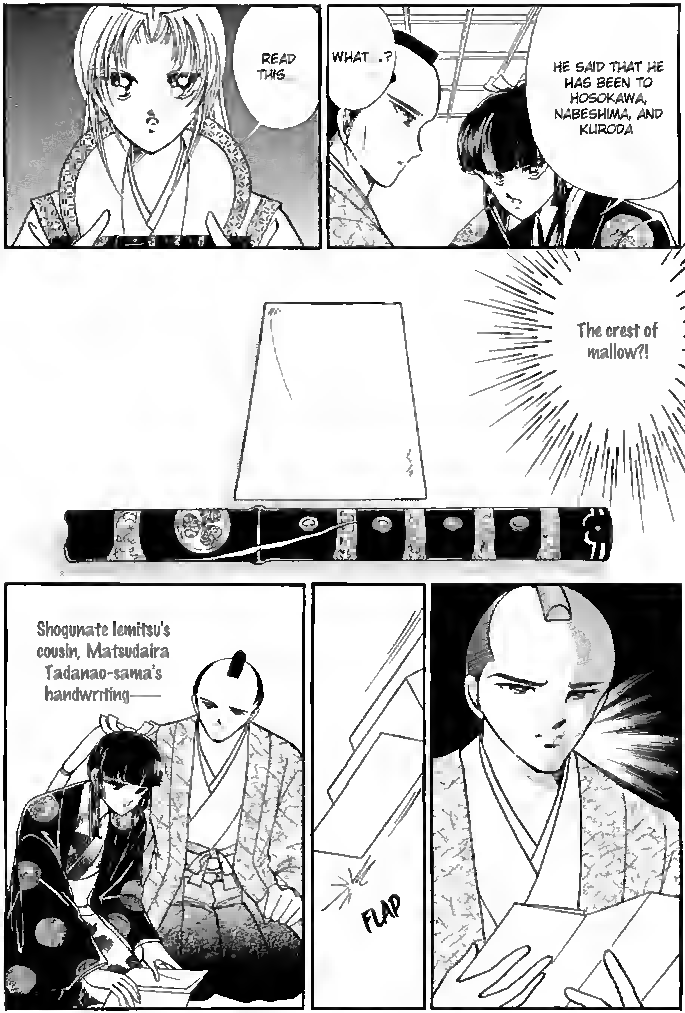
DONO. MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU IN PRIVATE
HM?
OKO, DID YOU COME SPECIALLY TO KOKURA?
Kagoshima Clan,
Shimazu Mitsuhisa
OPENS

WHO...WHO'S THERE?!

HE FELL FROM THE SKY AND WAS CAUGHT IN THAT TREE. IT ASTOUNDED ME.
FE...FELL?
HE'S GOD'S MESSENGER WHO'S BEING WIDELY TALKED ABOUT NOW, AND HE FELL INTO OUR HONJIN.
O...OKO!
DONO! SHIMABARA AMAKUSA, WHERE THESE PEOPLE ARE, IS NOW IN A TERRIBLE SITUATION. PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE WAY IT IS NOW AND COMPARE IT TO HOW WE USED TO KNOW IT.
THOSE MEN OUTSIDE ARE LOOKING FOR THIS MAN?! WE'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE IF EDO FINDS OUT OF US SHELTERING A CHRISTIAN!
A HUGE INSURGENCY WILL OCCUR BEFORE LONG AND THE FATE OF SHIMAZU THAT COMMANDS 700,000 GOKU DEPENDS ON YOU, DONO.
WHA-...WHAT...

…!
PLEASE LISTEN TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY. BE SURE NOT TO MISREAD THE DIRECTION WHICH THE CURRENT SITUATION IS HEADING…
BECAUSE SHIMAZU IS ALREADY DONO'S ERA.
MY NAME IS MASUDA SHIROU TOKISADA, AND I ONLY HAVE ONE REQUEST.
I'M SHIMAZU MITSUHISA. DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL ME?
I HOPE THAT YOU WON'T ATTACK MY PEOPLE WHEN THE REBELLION ARISES—


READ THIS
WHAT..?
HE SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN TO HOSOKAWA, NABESHIMA, AND KURODA
The crest of mallow?!
Shogunate Iemitsu's cousin, Matsudaira Tadanao-sama's handwriting——
FLAP

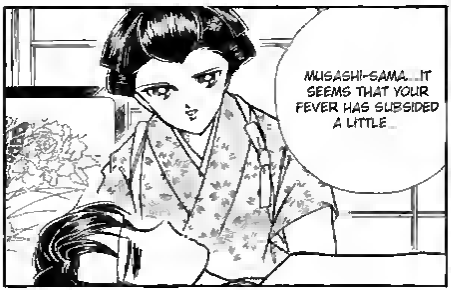
THANK YOU VERY MUCH WELL THEN——
I'VE PREPARED A KIMONO FOR YOU. LEAVE FROM THE BACK.
YOUR TASK IS DONE HERE, ISN'T IT? PLEASE HURRY BACK
AH, SURE
I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WHILE YOU'RE IN MOURNING. I BELIEVE IT'S VERY SADDENING THAT YOUR FATHER HAS PASSED ON—— DO TAKE CARE
HOW DID HE KNOW ABOUT FATHER'S DEATH——?
OKO, THIS IS...
IT'S INCREDULOUS. IS THIS THE SO-CALLED MIRACULOUS POWER?
AH, THIS FELL AND BROKE WHEN HE CAME FROM THE SKY
HE LEFT, LEAVING IT BEHIND...

NATSUKI, GET ON!
GALLOP
GALLOP
AH... SHE'S OUT! NATSUKI
I WAS SHOCKED THAT YOU FELL INTO THE HONJIN OF THE SHIMAZU HOUSE.
YES.
IT SEEMS THAT THEY'RE KEEPING IT A SECRET. BUT SHIMAZU IEHISA HAS DIED AND MITSUHISA HAS RETURNED——
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BUT...I FEEL THAT IT'S NOT BY CHANCE...
BECAUSE HISTORY HAS CHANGED AGAIN.
AND I MET HIM THERE
HUH—AMAZING!

DESTINY...
IT'S AS INCREDIBLE AS WITH KURODA! THE TIMING IS PERFECT!
IF IT'S THE REAL HISTORY, HE'D ONLY BECOME THE DONO AFTER TWO YEARS!
YES, THIS IS PERHAPS WHAT DESTINY IS...
I THINK WE HAVE TO DIVIDE SOME SOLDIERS TO BE DEPLOYED TO KOKURA WHEN THE REBELLION STARTS.
IT'S ONLY THE DONO OF KOKURA THAT I CAN'T SEEM TO MEET.
YES.

THE KANMON STRAIT SEPARATES JAPAN MAINLAND AND KYUSHU. IT IS A STRATEGIC JOINT OF COMMUNICATION AND TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE LAND AND SEA.
WE'VE TO GET READY FOR A SEA BATTLE AND DEFEND THE KANMON STRAIT* WITH OUR LIVES.
YAITSUKA...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE THINGS THAT CHRISTIANS DO
I'M SURPRISED THAT HE CAME FROM THE SKY.

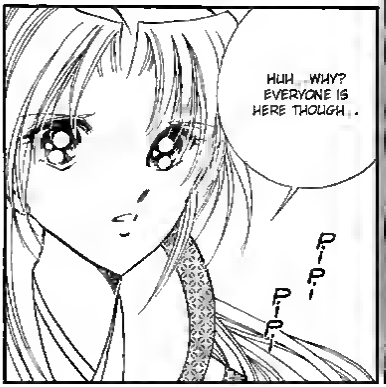

MUSASHI-SAMA...IT SEEMS THAT YOUR FEVER HAS SUBSIDED A LITTLE...

RATTLE
RATTLE
YES.
THAT'S GREAT
That's
...
my uniform ...?
CLOSES

I didn't know that I had my mobile!
connect to her.
Please...
The battery which Eiji made.

THE SKY IS SCARLET
AH—THE MORNING GLOW...

PI-PI-PI-PI-PI
PI-PI-PI


HUH... WHY? EVERYONE IS HERE THOUGH...
PI-PI-PI
PI-PI

I WONDER IF NATSUKI CAN DISPEL THAT IDEA——

WHAT SHOULD WE DO? SHOULD WE RETURN TO AMAKUSA?
YES...

NO WAY!
HUH?
MIYAMOTO!
MIYAMOTO MASAKI
YES NATSUKI, I'M SORRY YOU CAME TO SEE ME, DIDN'T YOU?
MIYAMOTO!
MIYAMOTO!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!

RETURN TO AMAKUSA. I'LL GO THERE AFTERWARDS NO MATTER WHAT
MIYAMOTO——
I'LL DEFINITELY—BE THERE COME RAIN OR SHINE.
「AMAKUSA 1637」

*The crest of Shimazu house a circle with the Japanese character 'ten'

Sankin Kotai was indeed a troublesome chore. Hence, it's understandable that Shimazu which was at the end of Kyushu was getting more and more displeased about it. I created a character, Oko-sama which was a result of watching the drama 'Ooku' that prompted me to feel that strong women are really cool and I tried to produce one. However, it was a male-oriented society so such women may not have existed. I do not dislike women who entice, scold or encourage their husbands as much as Oka-sama had done. This Oko-sama who was seen here was designed to be a rather young woman.

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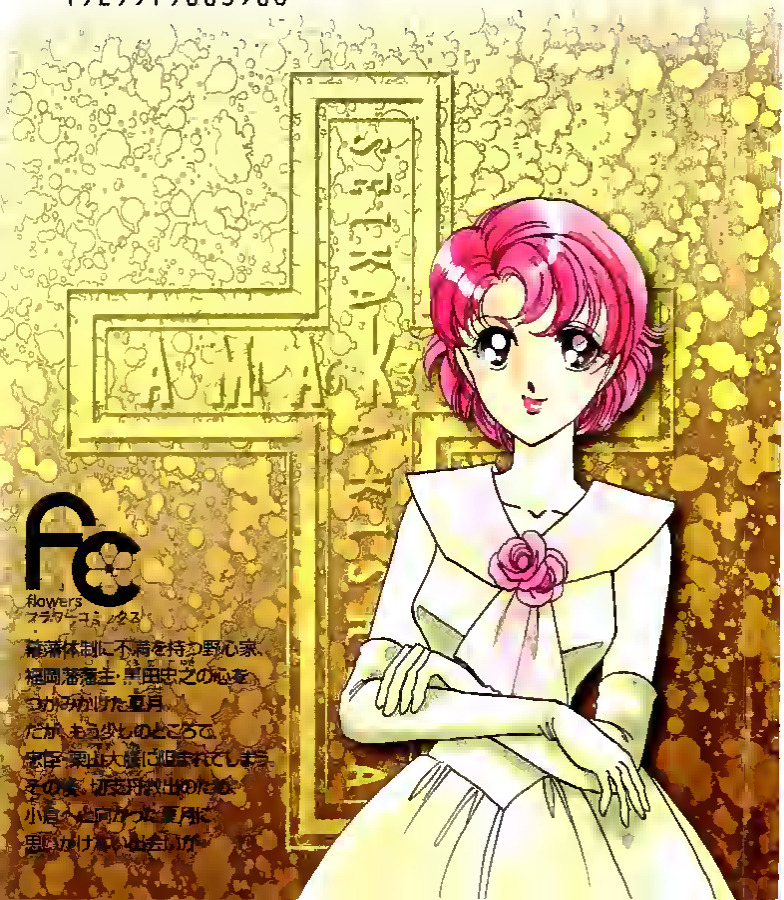

flowers
フラワーコミックス

華麗体制に不満を持つ野心家、
福岡藩藩主・黒田忠之の心を
つかみかけた夏月。
だが、もう少しのところで
徳川家康大将軍に阻まれてしまう。
その後、忠之は再び出府の
小倉へと向かった夏月に
思いがけない出会いが…

赤石路代の本

フラワーコミックス

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I WANT MY MANGA NOW——
BAM!
Waaaa